





## HOME NEWS

# £11,000 is given to Ross McWhirter Freedom Foundation

By Penny Symon

A Ross McWhirter Freedom Foundation is to be established by the Institute for Economic Affairs, with Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, as one of its sponsors, the institute announced last night. Mr Ross McWhirter, aged 50, was murdered at his home on Thursday.

Mr Ralph Harris, its director, said that with the agreement of Mr McWhirter's brother Norris, it was proposed to devise some continuing award that would celebrate the qualities displayed to a high degree by Mr McWhirter.

"The target is to raise £100,000, of which we had received £11,000 by midday today," Mr Harris said. "Other sponsors include: Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, Lord Boyd of Merton, Rear-Admiral Basil Place, and Odette Hallows, the war heroine."

On Tuesday a new organisation, The National Association for Freedom, is to be launched in London, and Mr Norris McWhirter is due to speak at its inaugural meeting.

The association is described as a formidable national body to fight for the rights and liberties of all; it intends to represent groups, associations, federations, trades and professions.

Lord De Lisle, its chairman, said yesterday that Mr McWhirter's murder had illustrated in its most tragic form the ever-growing threats to freedom and civilisation from extremists.

"Ross McWhirter was a brave and brilliant man who was devoted to freedom and was one of those all too rare men who are ready to fight for their beliefs," he said.

The first two points in the association's freedom charter, he said, proclaimed the right

to be defended against the country's enemies, and the right to live under the Queen's peace.

Mr McWhirter was chairman of Current Affairs Press, which was set up last March. Its first campaign was to establish an independent newspaper printing works capable of producing a news sheet if strikes or lockouts should bring the national press to a stop.

Clive Borrell writes: Detectives last night were guarding Mrs Rosemary McWhirter at a secret address in London as fears grew for her safety.

"She has been able to give us a clear description of the two men who shot her husband and as a result she is a vital witness," a senior detective at Enfield, north London, said last night. "For her own safety she must be protected." The McWhirter home is in Enfield.

The murder investigation is being led by Commander Roy Habershon, head of Scotland Yard's bomb squad, which has overall control of anti-terrorist activities.

Police were reluctant to give details of the shooting of Mr McWhirter.

It is clear, however, that two gunmen laid an ambush for Mrs McWhirter as she drove home. Police believe that they hid in the shrubbery beside the detached house in Village Road and approached Mrs McWhirter as she entered the drive.

Her husband was evidently expecting her, because he opened the front door when he heard her car's engine. At that moment the two gunmen fired two shots at Mr McWhirter, one hitting him in the head and the other in the body.

The two gunmen, neither of whom were seen, then drove Mrs McWhirter's car and drove off at speed. The car, a blue



Det Chief Supt Nigel Reid (third from left), who is taking part in the hunt for Mr Ross McWhirter's killers, leaving the murder scene yesterday.

Ford Granada, was found abandoned by police a few minutes later in Devonshire Hill Lane, Tottenham.

Mr David Hoy, a business associate of the McWhirter brothers, said yesterday that Mr Ross McWhirter had left his office in Cecil Court, Enfield, for his home which was less than a mile away, at about 5.30 pm on Thursday.

"He did worry about his safety," he added, and "took the usual precautions as recommended by the police and searched the undergrowth of his car each morning before leaving home."

Our Political Correspondent writes: Many Conservative MPs shocked by the murder of Mr Ross McWhirter on Thursday, said last night that they intended to renew pressure on

the Government to reintroduce the death penalty for acts of terrorism which result in death.

The first opportunity to test opinion in the Commons on the use of the death penalty and to ascertain how views are changing under the impact of the IRA campaign of violence might be when the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill comes before the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, found support for a Commons early-day motion saying: "This House urges HM Government . . . to introduce immediately capital punishment for terrorist offences resulting in death."

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, and a friend of Mr McWhirter, said:

"The fact that the Metropolitan Police are understaffed by 10,000 men is disgraceful."

"Undoubtedly, Ross McWhirter got under the skin of the IRA because he was, indeed, a £50,000 for informers. His death has shown that they are frightened of informers."

Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, should offer £500,000 for information leading to the capture of the killers of Mr McWhirter."

Mr Nairn, Correspondent writes: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, speaking at the World Council of Churches' meeting in Nairobi yesterday, said of Mr McWhirter's murder: "The use of violence in any part of the world can only lead to the spirit of hatred and to further violence and death."

## Peace 'not discussed' as Ulster rivals meet

From Christopher Walker

Weeks of negotiations preceded a supposedly secret meeting now taking place in Holland between representatives of Ulster's most powerful Protestant paramilitary groups and republican militants, including the Provisional Sinn Féin.

The subject was originally the workers' cooperative which the Provisionals have run in their west Belfast stronghold of Andersonstown since 1973. A limited company, it embraces a supermarket, a butcher's shop and a number of subcontractors repairing buildings for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The "loyalists", conscious of the success of that enterprise and of the employment it provides for former prisoners and detainees, recently experimented with a small cooperative of their own, but felt they needed more expertise. They asked the Rev William Arlow, a Presbyterian clergyman and mediator, if he could arrange a meeting with the IRA.

Yesterday Mr Arlow flew to take part in the closing stages of the conference. He said: "There was no chance of them being able to talk properly in Northern Ireland, so I made a few inquiries and was able to offer them some conference facilities in Holland, arranged through the European Conference of Churches."

Mr Andrew Tyrre, leader of the Ulster Defence Association, and Mr David Payne, one of his chief lieutenants, are taking part in the discussions with Mr John McKague, spokesman for the newly-formed Ulster Army Council, Mr Seamus Loughran, Northern organizer of the Provisional Sinn Féin, and four other members of the Provisional Army Council.

Attempts during the last few months to arrange meetings between the opposing paramilitary groups have all failed,

largely because of fears among the leadership about the reaction of their supporters. This time the plan appears to have succeeded because of an agreement to restrict discussions to the issue of workers' cooperatives.

Nevertheless, there was widespread speculation yesterday that both sides would use the opportunity of meeting away from the violent pressures of Ulster to raise more fundamental issues. The leaders of the UDA and the Provisional Republican movement have not come face to face since their meeting in Libya in October, 1974.

Mr Arlow, who helped to establish the Provisional IRA's ceasefire, said: "I am particularly hoping that lines of communication will be opened up which can help them to bring the dreadful campaign of sectarian killings to an end."

A UDA spokesman, however, said: "There is no way that we would have been represented if there had been a question of peace talks."

The Ulster Volunteer Force delegation was last night ordered to retire because of publicity and because the brigade staff in Belfast was worried that the talks were overstepping their limits.

Sue Masterman writes from The Hague: The symposium is fully subsidized by the Dutch Ministry of Culture. The organizers are three Dutch and three Irish clerical and social workers.

Mr Joris Bakker, rector of a civil rights foundation, and one of the Dutch organizers, said the 30 delegates were embarrassed by the publicity the meeting has received.

Asked whether the group has discussed anything apart from cooperatives and how to renovate old and damaged housing, Father Andre Lascaris, another of the organizers, said: "They are not getting together. It is not our business to concern ourselves with what they talk about outside the conference room."

## Peers will rule on Amphill succession

By Our Political Correspondent

The House of Lords will appoint a committee of peers to consider the conflicting claims of two men who claim to be the rightful inheritors of the Barony of Amphil of Bedfordshire.

The first petitioner listed in the Lords order paper yesterday is Geoffrey Denis Erskine Russell, commonly called the Honourable G. D. E. Russell, and the second is John Trenchard Russell, commonly called the Honourable J. H. T. Russell.

Both pray that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to admit and allow his claim to succeed to the title of his father as Baron Amphil of Bedfordshire, and will direct a writ of summons to be issued to him for attendance in Parliament as Baron Amphil of Bedfordshire.

The duty of the Lords committee is to advise the Queen who is the rightful heir.

A self-reporter writes: The appointment of the committee is the latest stage in a protracted dispute that began with the Russell baby case. In 1921 Mr John Russell, who became Lord Amphil in 1935 and died in 1971, was succeeded by his son, the Earl of Russell, who was the father of the child born to his wife, Mrs Christabel Russell, on October 15, 1921.

He stated in evidence that he had never consummated his marriage with his wife, but insisted that the child was a legitimate child of his father.

Medical evidence that at the time of the birth Mrs Russell was a virgin was not contested and the conclusion was drawn that conception had resulted after incomplete intercourse. After two hearings Mr Russell won a decree nisi.

In 1924 the House of Lords upheld by a majority of three to two Mrs Russell's appeal legitimizing her baby. In 1935 Mr Justice Goffe granted a petition for a declaration that Mr Geoffrey Russell was the lawful child of his parents.

Mr Geoffrey Russell, now a theatrical impresario, aged 54, has since then been known as Lord Amphil. He is the son of Lord Russell's third marriage. The Lord Chancellor decided the succession was unclear and both claimants petitioned the Crown. The Attorney General yesterday referred the case to the committee of privileges in the Lords.

### THE ROUSSEVELTS

In the latest of a series of articles on families who have altered the course of American history, Peter Conrad writes in *The Sunday Times Magazine* tomorrow about Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

## Collision in pool before girls were drowned

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

Two girls aged nine who drowned during a school swimming lesson when under the supervision of two teachers and an instructor were seen to collide as they swam just below the surface, an inquest heard yesterday.

Rebecca Galligan, aged eight, a classmate of the dead girls, told the inquest in Nottingham that she saw the two girls swim straight towards each other from opposite sides of the pool and bump their heads together.

The girls were later discovered lying just off the bottom by another classmate, Martin Shaw, aged nine, who told the teacher there were "two dummies" in the pool.

Verdicts of accidental death were recorded on the girls, Alison Buttery, of Seriby Road, Newthorpe, Nottinghamshire, and Karen Randall, of 10, Street, Newthorpe. They died on November 17 during a school swimming lesson at a recreation centre at Kimberley, Nottingham.

Mr Anthony Rothera, the coroner, cleared the teachers and instructor of any blame.

"The chances of it happening were so remote that I am satisfied on the evidence that these two girls did collide whilst swimming under the water, and clearly went straight to the bottom. One does not know what the time lag was between the collision and the time when they were found by Martin, but I have the impression it was only a very short time indeed."

He said there was no unreasonable delay in getting them out after they were found.

## One delivery a day enough, Post Office told

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Businessmen in the Midlands told senior Post Office executives yesterday that one guaranteed delivery of mail a day would be sufficient.

Mr Alex Curran, managing director of the postal service, said that the end of second deliveries might be in sight. Cutting them out could save between £20m and £25m a year, and possibly more.

Speaking in Sutton Coldfield at one of a series of meetings organized by the Post Office and Post Office Users' National Council to find out what sort of service customers want, he said that four years ago the users' council had opposed drastic cuts. "The situation has now changed."

Representatives of some of Britain's largest industries said that one delivery a day provided it was regular, would suit most of them, though those from nationalized industries like gas and electricity said that they needed the money which often came by the Saturday delivery.

### Cannabis charge

Julia Anne Stonehouse, aged 24, company director, of Bramham Gardens, South Kensington, London, is to appear before Horseferry Road magistrates on Monday charged with possessing cannabis.

## Schools 'a case for European court'

A warning that aggrieved parents may be able to take the Government before the European Court of Human Rights by aggrieved parents and educators.

He said: "Parents are at liberty to set the processes of international law in motion by approaching the Human Rights Commission. The effect of such an intervention could result in a ruling by the court that the United Kingdom is in breach of fundamental treaty obligations."

Mr St John-Stevens, MP for Chelmsford, said that in pursuing those two courses the Government was in danger of finding itself in breach of the European Convention on

Human Rights and of "being hauled before the European Court of Human Rights by aggrieved parents and educators."

He said: "Parents are at liberty to set the processes of international law in motion by approaching the Human Rights Commission. The effect of such an intervention could result in a ruling by the court that the United Kingdom is in breach of fundamental treaty obligations."

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## Lung machines at hospital where boy died 'safe'

Breathing machines at a hospital where a boy aged 11 months died under treatment are "perfectly safe", according to an inquiry team whose report was published yesterday.

Somerset area health authority undertook the inquiry after an inquest last month heard that Simon Lock died in Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton, when a breathing machine became disconnected.

The machine was stated at the inquest to be not to the requirements of British standards. But the inquiry team reported: "The lung ventilator itself does comply with British standards, although it is of American manufacture. . . . We are satisfied that the ventilator and the associated equipment was, and continues to be, suitable and perfectly safe for its purpose."

Criticism at the inquest was also levelled at the lack of communication between the hospital and the social services. But the inquiry team said they were satisfied the correct procedure had been followed.

## Library official unfairly dismissed, tribunal rules

A man who lost his £5,300-a-year job at a library described by a senior council official as a "cockpit of intrigue" was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal has ruled. Mr Harold Smith, deputy chief librarian of Wandsworth council, London, was awarded £5,069 in the judgment pronounced yesterday.

Mr Smith, aged 57, was dismissed after an inquiry by the council into staff relationships in the libraries department. The committee which carried out the inquiry decided that Mr Smith had demonstrated "inability to discharge his responsibilities with efficiency" and that he was unable to form "productive relationships" with colleagues. He was told he would be retired from February, 1975.

At a four-day tribunal hearing former colleagues of Mr Smith told of petty squabbles and internal friction.

Mr Smith also made allegations at the tribunal, including one that a senior council official had been involved in a waste paper collector and that the council lost money because the collector was being paid "in kind". He said that an internal inquiry, which rejected his allegations about the running of

the library, had done a "white-wash" job.

In its findings the tribunal said that it could not accept that staff relations were seriously strained in the way alleged by the council. There was no doubt that the appointment of Mr Smith as deputy chief librarian in 1964 was not welcomed by the borough librarian, but "there was no evidence that this interfered with the efficient working of the library services."

Nor could the tribunal accept that Mr Smith made grave allegations of misconduct and impropriety against other members of the library staff to a councillor. There was a conflict of evidence on the question of Mr Smith's efficiency.

Mr Smith had shown he was keeping a pledge made to the council's staff management committee to act "in the best interests" of the library services. The tribunal said no reason for his dismissal should not be a harmonious working relationship in the future.

The sum awarded Mr Smith includes amounts for loss of salary, loss of redundancy rights, and unfair dismissal.

## Scottish press attacks devolution plan

From Ronald Faux Edinburgh

Devolution commanded a predictably large part of the Scottish press yesterday. The *Scottishman*, in a leading article occupying almost half a page, judged that the Government's proposals for a Scottish assembly were too timid and too grudging.

The *Glasgow Herald* believed the Government had been too cautious and had so ensured the ultimate sovereignty of the United Kingdom Parliament as to invite conflict and damage the spirit of political purpose the assembly would be expected to display.

In fact, both papers were strongly critical of the powers that would fall into the hands of the Scottish Secretary of State. The *Scottishman* thought the proposals were more minimal than could be reasonably expected, a patchwork resulting from political expediency, concessions to trade unions (who in the event were starkly critical of the White Paper) and security precautions against the assembly's stepping out of line.

The pattern of devolution had been distorted and spoiled, it said, by the Government's determination to keep the office of Secretary of State and to enhance his status. The paper

repeated the comparison between the Scottish Secretary and a governor general and commented that an active party politician who might be a rival of the assembly should not perform duties better left to a neutral.

It also suggested that with Westminster, the assembly and the Secretary of State, Scotland would have one government too many. The cause was the Government's desire to keep the Secretary of State as a repository of powers which they hesitated to trust to the assembly yet could not remove from Scotland.

The *Scottishman* was mildly critical of the rejection of proportional representation recommended by the Kilbrandon commission, and was more hostile to the proposal that control of Scottish universities should not be devolved.

Perhaps the most astonishing decision, according to *The Scotsman*, was that the police and legal system were to remain with the Secretary of State. The excuse that law and order should not rest with an administration which was not directly answerable to Parliament was plausible only if it was assumed that the assembly would be unreliable.

"The Secretary of State, who remains in charge of the police, is directly under the thumb of the Cabinet, and the Govern-

ment may want to give him something to do. It is, however, an insult to the assembly to imply that it cannot be entrusted with security and the maintenance of public order," the leader said.

The White Paper provided humble foundations on which a worthwhile assembly could be built if it was given powers to let it develop and assume more responsibilities by agreement as it grew in competence and experience. But it offered little hope that devolution would be subject to evolution. "Slippery slope" merchants were obstacles to a rational approach.

The *Glasgow Herald* commented that as the government figure the Secretary of State would be in danger of being seen as a representative of Westminster whenever the Government used its veto powers to prevent an assembly Bill becoming law. If a Bill was rejected by Westminster on policy grounds, as the White Paper suggested was possible, the chances of a constitutional crisis were considerable.

As it stood, the White Paper would allow a Conservative Secretary of State regularly to reject socialist legislation passed by a Labour controlled assembly, or vice-versa. "This surely is not what devolution is about," the paper said.

## BMA advice to hospitals dispute staff

Continued from page 1

diagnosis or treatment as new cases.

In its guidance to doctors, the BMA says that if a patient is referred to a hospital by a general practitioner, he should be seen. Patients who were not referred would be seen by the duty doctor providing emergency cover, who must make a decision.

Where a patient is referred to outpatient treatment, the advice says, it is essential that the general practitioner's opinion on the degree of urgency should be clearly indicated. All cases of children should be seen as an emergency. But the treatment of children is not, as was expected, excluded from the doctors' action. Further guidance is to be issued and that may be included then.

In a covering letter, Dr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the BMA, says that action committees at every hospital should particularly ensure that the essential medical needs of patients were met. The paramount need of the committees, on which representatives of NHS, said yesterday that if consultants continued to treat their private patients in NHS hospitals whilst limiting their work from next Monday, the union might withdraw its members' services to private patients.

The National Union of Public Employees, which has about 200,000 members, mostly ancillary staff, working in the NHS, said yesterday that if consultants continued to treat their private patients in NHS hospitals whilst limiting their work from next Monday, the union might withdraw its members' services to private patients.

Mr Bernard Dix, the union's spokesman, said: "We hope that the majority of consultants will ignore the provocative policies of the mandarins of the BMA, but if they do not, then our two hundred thousand nursing and ancillary staff will be forced to defend the NHS."

Heart girl must wait: Mr Richard Welch, headmaster of a primary school at Great Horwood, near Birmingham, has undergone heart operations, was to have entered the National Heart hospital in London for three days.

## Libel writ issued over 'Sunday Times' articles

Two writs were issued yesterday on behalf of Mr James Slater, former head of Slater, Walker.

Clifford-Turner, the London solicitors, said the first writ "claims damages for libel against Mr Charles Raw, Mr Evans and Times Newspapers Ltd."

Mr Harold Evans is editor of the *Sunday Times*, and the article "Slater and the scorpion that bit back" appeared under the name of Charles Raw.

## Explosives trial accused says he was in UVF

One of the five defendants in the explosives trial at Preston Crown Court said yesterday in an unsolicited statement from the dock that he was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Norman Kinner said that, acting under orders from senior UVF officers from last January, he and others whose names were not revealed to him tried to procure and transport "defensive" war materials into Ulster. He said the explosives were stockpiled for use in the event of a civil war in Northern Ireland.

Mr Kinner, aged 34, of High Vale Gardens, Belfast; Alan Tyrrell, aged 24, of Lillie Grove, Hurstville, Harold James, aged 31, of Morton Street, Liverpool; Harry Lloyd, aged 43, of Beattie Street, Liverpool; and Francis Wylie, aged 27, of

Ravenshill Road, Belfast, have all denied conspiring to cause explosions in Northern Ireland. The Crown has alleged that all five were militant Protestant sympathisers and that explosives which were found on Mr Wylie's Belfast-bound lorry at Heysham were intended for use by a "loyalist" paramilitary group.

Mr Kenneth Doyens, QC, for Mr Kinner, told the court his client had elected not to give evidence, but had handed written statement from the dock.

Mr Kinner, who emphasised that his statement was not a plea of guilty to the charge of conspiring to cause explosions, said the UVF was not a terrorist organisation.

The trial continues on Monday.

## Tighter security on circus lions urged

From Our Correspondent Lincoln

Security on dangerous circus animals should be tightened, the jury recommended after an inquest yesterday on Stephen Jackson-Parr, aged 10, who died after being mauled by an escaped circus lion near his home in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, on Guy Fawkes night.

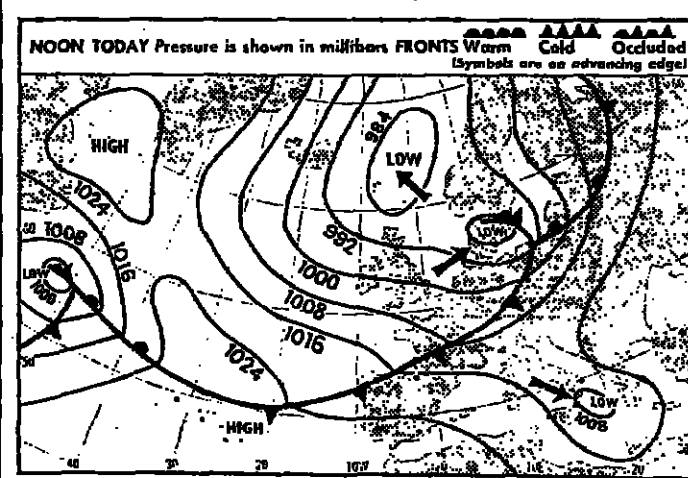
On the suggestion of Mr Humphrey Butcher, the coroner, the jury asked for a three-point safety plan to be incorporated with the verdict of accidental death.

The recommendations were that local authorities should provide adequate sites for circuses well away from housing and children. Police and fire services should advise and supervise and apply the same safety regulations as used for

theatres and cinemas. Circuses should introduce a safe method to transfer dangerous animals from outside cages into the circus ring.

The last recommendation came after the jury heard that a gate between a steel tunnel and the cage circus ring had jammed on the night when Stephen Jackson-Parr, of Marfield Avenue, Gainsborough, sustained his fatal injuries.

## Weather forecast and recordings



**Today**  
Sun rises: 7.40 am  
Sun sets: 3.57 pm  
Moon rises: 4.22 am  
Moon sets: 2.17 pm  
New moon: December 3.  
Lighting up: 4.27 pm to 7.12 am.  
High water: London Bridge 9.50 am, 6.5m (21.7ft); 10.58 pm, 6.9m (22.7ft).  
Low water: London Bridge 3.22 am, 11.5m (37.7ft); 3.50 pm, 11.9m (39.2ft).  
Dover: 7.4 am, 6.2m (20.5ft); 7.50 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft).  
Hull: 1.51 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 4.41 pm, 6.8m (22.5ft).  
Liverpool: 7.33 am, 8.3m (27.2ft); 7.58 pm, 8.6m (28.1ft).

**Tomorrow**  
Sun rises: 7.42 am  
Sun sets: 3.56 pm  
Moon rises: 4.22 am  
Moon sets: 2.17 pm  
Lighting up: 4.26 pm to 7.13 am.  
High water: London Bridge 11.3 am, 6.5m (21.5ft); 11.43 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft).  
Low water: London Bridge 4.27 am, 12.2m (40.0ft); 4.52 pm, 12.5m (41.2ft).  
Dover: 8.3 am, 6.5m (21.5ft); 8.49 pm, 6.5m (21.5ft).  
Hull: 1.51 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 4.41 pm, 6.8m (22.5ft).  
Liverpool: 7.33 am, 8.3m (27.2ft); 7.58 pm, 8.6m (28.1ft).

moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F), slight frost at first.  
Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Ireland: Mist and fog, rain at first. Sunny intervals with showers with local hail showers and some snow over hills; max temp 5°C (41°F), frost by night.  
Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Showers and sun, intervals, sun on hills, more rain in W areas on Monday; generally rather cold, night frost.  
Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel, Irish Sea, Wind NW, strong; sea rough; W. Wind NW or strong; sea moderate or rough.

**Yesterday**  
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 1 pm, 9°C (48°F); min, 5 pm to 8 pm, 4°C (39°F). Humidity, 6 pm to 8 pm, 94 per cent. Rain, 2.4in to 6 pm, 0.69in. Sun, 2.4in to 6 pm, 0.91in. Sea mean sea level, 5 pm, 91 ft. Bar, mean sea level, 29.33in. Mistfalls, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.33in.

**Overseas selling prices**  
Sterling: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Gold: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Silver: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Platinum: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Copper: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Zinc: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Lead: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Tin: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Nickel: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Iron: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Steel: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Coal: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Oil: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Gas: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Electricity: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Wheat: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Corn: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Beans: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Soybeans: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Rice: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Sugar: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Coffee: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Tea: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Spices: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Fruits: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Vegetables: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Livestock: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Poultry: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Eggs: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Fish: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Shellfish: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Game: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Flowers: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Plants: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Furniture: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Appliances: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Electronics: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Books: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Music: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Art: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Collectibles: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Antiques: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Jewellery: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Watches: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Clocks: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Toys: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Games: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Sports: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Hobbies: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Gardening: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Pets: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Health: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Beauty: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Fashion: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Travel: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Insurance: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Finance: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Law: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Medicine: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Science: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Technology: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Industry: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Agriculture: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Forestry: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Fishing: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Hunting: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Camping: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Boating: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Skiing: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Snow: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Ice: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Wind: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Rain: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Sun: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Clouds: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Fog: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Mist: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Drizzle: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Snow: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Ice: 100 s.p. = 1.00. Wind: 100 s



HOME NEWS

# Procedural challenge to Government likely on press safeguards

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

The Opposition is likely to challenge the Government on the procedure to be adopted in the Commons when considering amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill relating to press safeguards for press freedom.

Because of the unusual circumstances in which the Bill is introduced by the Government, both Houses are about to explore procedures which have never been fully used in the past.

The Government has tabled a motion to dispense with the committee and report stages of the Bill, but there is, nevertheless, to be a stage requiring at least a day's debate on the "suggested amendments" which have been tabled by Mr For, Secretary of State for Employment, relating to a charter of the freedom of the press.

It has been assumed generally that the motion setting out the provisions for a charter and an appeal body to which people claiming victimization can present their case can be amended in the usual way. But Estlin May's Parliamentary Practice, which is the general guide to procedure, states that each "suggested amendment" shall be moved as a separate resolution.

That means that there could be a long list of "suggestions", some embodying parts of the Government's resolution, tabled as separate resolutions by the Conservatives and Liberals.

Mr Thomas, the Liberal leader, has promised that the Liberals will seek to include the proposals put forward by Lord Goodman and approved by the House of Lords to give legal backing to the charter of press freedom.

Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are committed to giving firm support to such amendments. They are anxious, in particular, to ensure that the charter is not deprived of the opportunity of earning his living through the operation of the closed shop should have

a right of appeal to the High Court.

According to leading Conservative MPs, there is still "everything to play for" under the Parliament Acts procedure. As they see it, the time allocated for the consideration of "suggested amendments" will, in effect, be a committee stage.

Arguments about the rights of the Commons to amend the Government's proposals will be deployed when Mr Short, Leader of the House, moves a procedural motion after the second reading debate on December 9.

The House of Lords expects to receive the suggested amendments in January. There will be a normal second reading debate and, unlike the routine in the Commons, there will be a committee stage. That is when the Lords will make the crucial decision to accept or reject, or amend, the "suggested amendments" from the Commons.

If they carry amendments that conflict with the views of the Commons, or reject the "suggested amendments", the Government will send the Bill forward for Royal Assent in the form in which it was originally presented, without the provisions on press freedom which originated from Lord Houghton's initiative in the Lords.

If the Lords accept the Commons proposals, they will be incorporated in the Bill as if they were amendments inserted during a normal committee stage.

There is every indication that even if Lord Goodman were to move his original amendments there would not be a majority for them.

Lord Carrington, Leader of the Opposition peers, has said that the Conservatives would not think it right to insist on last session's amendments if the Commons do not accept them.

That puts the onus on the Conservatives and Liberals to support, if they can win it, to carry the legal safeguards that Lord Goodman and a combination of Conservative, Liberal and crossbench peers sought to include in the Bill last session.

# Last of six accused cleared after £300,000, 40-day trial

From Our Correspondent  
Birmingham

Two councillors walked free from the dock at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday, after a trial lasting eight weeks and estimated to have cost the taxpayer £300,000 and £300,000. Nobody was convicted.

Originally six people, including Mr T. Dan Smith, a former associate of John Poulson, had been charged with fraud in connection with an electrical firm of which they were directors.

It took the jury more than 24 hours to reach the last of their verdicts in the cases of Ronald Dilleigh, aged 49, of Graspin Lane, Northampton, and Miss Carolaine Mary Truett, aged 55, of Kingsley Road, Northampton.

Both are members of Northamptonshire County Council and Mr Dilleigh is also a member of Northampton District Council, of which he is a former leader. Originally they were charged with four other directors of the Dyson Electrical Company Ltd on a number of counts of fraud, theft and false accounting.

At various stages during the 40-day hearing Mr Justice Pain threw out all the charges except one of continuing the business, which went into liquidation in March, 1973, with a deficiency of £28,000, with intent to defraud the creditors. All six denied that and three, including Mr Smith, were acquitted on the direction of the judge.

A fourth accused, Thomas Roy Ellison, aged 44, of Longdon Street, Wallington, Cheshire, was acquitted by the jury on Thursday night, more

than eight hours after they retired. But at that stage they could still not agree on verdicts in the case of Mr Dilleigh and Miss Truett.

In "Birmingham Mail" when they returned to court yesterday morning, more than 23 hours after they retired, they sent a note to the judge and he called them back into court for rectification about a letter which was in volume 13 of the huge bundle of documents. He said that he was not blaming anybody, but it was a document that ought to have been removed from the file and should not have been seen by the jury, as it was not given in evidence.

He said that it made reference to "a criminal offence" and referred to something apparently said by a solicitor in a telephone conversation. The jury should ignore it, not only because it had not been evidence, but also because in his view the legal advice it gave was not correct.

The jury retired again, and that time it took them less than a quarter of an hour to return verdicts of not guilty on both councillors.

The judge made an order, as in the case of the earlier acquittal, for the defence costs to be paid out of public funds.

All the accused had contended that they never had any intention of defrauding creditors and that they considered the business would have flourished but for difficulties it ran into, including dispute over payment for work done.

# Cheese is to cost 3p a lb more from next week

By Hugh Clayton

Cheese will cost an extra 3p a pound next week, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday. Most of the increase is caused by the latest adjustment of the "green pound", the device for expressing EEC farm prices in sterling.

Mrs Williams laid an order before Parliament yesterday raising price ceilings on all subsidised cheeses. The top price for farmhouse Cheddar, for example, will be 69p a pound. Prices in most shops will be well below the maximum levels because of the Government's curbs on profits.

A second order provides for new maximum prices for bread in the wake of a cut in the subsidy already announced. Mrs Williams made clear yesterday that although most large loaves will rise by 1p announced, some "speciality" types will increase by 1½p.

The changes mean that most large, sliced loaves will cost about 17p next week instead of 16p. Some shops, however, will sell such loaves this weekend for as little as 12½p.

# Oxford rejects external education degree

From Our Correspondent  
Oxford

A move to set up an external Bachelor of Education honours degree at Oxford University for students at two teacher training colleges in the city has been defeated in a postal vote by members of Congregation. Voting was 648-329. The proposal involved Culham College and Westminster College.

Mr Donald Crompton, principal of Westminster College, criticized Dr Harry Judge, director of the university's department of educational studies, for campaigning for its rejection, which he said would mean first and second-class citizens in teaching.

**£30,000 beef burnt**

Frozen beef valued at £30,000 was destroyed when a lorry and trailer caught fire on the north-bound carriageway of the M6, near Stafford, yesterday.

**16 hurt in bus crash**

Three people were detained in hospital after two buses collided in Southport, Lancashire, yesterday. Thirteen others were also injured.

**Aire road inquiry date**

The public inquiry into a plan for a trunk road through the Aire Valley, Yorkshire, will resume on February 3, the Department of the Environment announced. Protesters broke up the inquiry on November 20.

# Students to seek £245 rise in grants

By a Staff Reporter

The National Union of Students has decided to press for an increase of one third in student grants next year, which would exceed the Government's £6 limit on wage increases.

If a proposal of the NUS executive is approved by the union's conference in Scarborough next weekend, the NUS will ask the Government to increase the standard rate of student grant from £40 a year to £98.50. The rate for students in London would be raised to £1,080. Such an increase would work out at more than £8 a week based on a 30-week academic year.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president of the NUS, explained that his executive would recommend their conference to reject the £6 limit. He added that if this claim was not met even more students would be denied an opportunity to continue their education because of lack of money.

The claim is based on a calculation that students could receive £845 a year if the purchasing power of their grants is to stay at the same level as in 1962, when the present grants system was introduced. The claim for an increase of £245 is based also on the assumption that inflation will run at an annual rate of 4 per cent during 1976-77.

# General disclosed war plans in love letters

Sir John French's passion for the wife of a British diplomat revealed

By Philip Howard

Love letters have come to light that illuminate the psychology of one of the most controversial generals of the First World War, Sir John French, later created the first Earl of Ypres. French commanded the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders from the outset of that world earthquake until the end of 1915; when the terribly costly and fruitless advances of that year forced his resignation and replacement by Sir Douglas Haig. While the murderous deadlock of 1915 tightened, French was writing passionate letters to Mrs Winifred Bennett, the wife of a British diplomat who was known to his family behind his back as Pomposus Percy.

The letters contain much private passion that appears both engaging and fairly comic in the cold light of public print; "war talk" about French's plans long before the D-days of the assaults; and trenchant comments about his allies and colleagues that confirm the allegation that French was a difficult man to get on with. Kitcheners and the others at the War Office, with whom French so signally failed to harmonize, would have been shocked till their hair stood on end if they had known that their commander-in-chief was punning in writing to a civilian more about his secret plans than he vouchsafed them.

Here is an example from the build-up to the Battle of Loos: "Seriously My Darling the Day" is approaching and I am



Sir John French: Trenchant comments on allies and colleagues.

anxiously awaiting it. We shall of course have some terrific losses but—alas, we are getting accustomed to that now—War is really a very brutal way of settling differences and the more we see of it the more I hate it."

Later in the build-up: a passage indicative that French knew that Loos was his last

chance personally, as well as the end of the road in a more permanent way for thousands of his troops: "Another day of preparation—hard, hard preparation—it is such a big thing, Darling, & so much, so very much depends upon the next 2 or 3 weeks. What ever happens I shall have to bear the brunt of it and in cricket company

they sing 'Change of bowler'. If it comes to that YOU won't blame me and that's all I care about in all the world."

On the eve of the battle French wrote: "We attack at six points... daybreak tomorrow" and gave the locations of the concomitant French attacks as well as the British. He concluded with the gloomy but accurate prognosis: "I fear we may suffer very heavy losses."

Even more hair-raising for a security officer are the details French gave far in advance of his own movements and the itineraries of such eminent visitors to the front as the King, Asquith, Churchill, Churchill and Lloyd George. His visitors would have turned Staff Officer scarlet to read French's intimate opinions about them after their visits. In a characteristic passage he condemns all his political masters as "such infernal humbugs and liars". His repeated references to the French as terrible allies; his lurid descriptions of atrocities by these allies; and his conviction that the French soldiers had gone mad might also have been deemed alarmingly undiplomatic in a commander-in-chief. They must have made a refreshing change for the wife of Pomposus Percy, who sent through her family album ravaging hours on her husband's end.

These 99 explosively indiscreet and instructive love letters were kept by Mrs Bennett's only son, her grand-daughter, who considers that the scandal of the passion is now spent; and the letters will be sold at Sotheby's next month.

# Decisions on Celtic Sea oil and gas next year

From A Staff Reporter  
Ceerphilly

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that he would make announcements next year about the future of oil and gas exploration in the Celtic Sea.

After discussions now going on between the governments of Britain, Ireland and France over boundaries to be fixed in the Celtic Sea, new exploration areas would be designated and applications for exploration licences would be invited. At the same time, he said, conditions for the new licences would be announced.

On the United Kingdom side of the Celtic Sea 44 blocks have been licensed but only one well has been drilled. That was in 1973 and the well was dry. The search for gas and oil in the British sector stopped early this year, partly because of the success in the North Sea and partly because of pressure on international companies to concentrate resources on proved areas in other parts of the world.

The Celtic Sea remains unproved, and oil companies are taking a much longer view of the prospects in that area than was originally thought.

Mr Wedgwood Benn talked of the Celtic Sea during a visit to South Wales. He and his wife paid a visit to Bedwyr colliery, Ceerphilly, and toured workings underground.

<b>ALSACE</b> Vin d'Alsace Edelzwitz Alsace or Vin d'Alsace followed by: Gewürztraminer Muscat Pinot Riesling Sylvaner Tokay d'Alsace	Clos Saint-Denis Corton Corton Charlemagne Côte de Beaune Côte de Beaune-Villages Côte de Nuits-Villages Crémant de Bourgogne Criots Bâtard-Montrachet Dezize-les-Maranges Echézeaux Fixin Gevrey-Chambertin Givry Grands Echézeaux Griotte Chambertin Ladoix Latricières Chambertin Mâcon Mâcon-Villages Mâcon Supérieur Mazis-Chambertin Mazoyères-Chambertin Mercurey Meursault Montagny Montrachet Morey Saint-Denis Musigny Nuits-Saint-Georges Pernand-Vergelesses Petit Chablis Pinot Chardonnay Mâcon Pommard Pouilly-Fuissé Pouilly-Loché Pouilly-Vinzelles Puligny-Montrachet Richebourg Romanée Romanée Conti Romanée Saint-Vivant Ruchottes-Chambertin Rully Saint-Aubin Saint-Romain Saint-Véran Sampigny-les-Maranges	Santenay Savigny-les-Beaune Tâche (La) Volnay Volnay Santenots Vosne-Romanée Vougeot <b>BEAUJOLAIS</b> Beaujolais Beaujolais Villages Brouilly Chénas Chiroubles Côte de Brouilly Fleurie Juliénas Morgon Moulin-à-Vent Saint-Amour	Côte Rotie Côtes du Ventoux Crozes-Hermitage Gigondas Hermitage Lirac Saint-Joseph Saint-Péray Saint-Féray moussoux Tavel <b>PROVENCE ET CORSE</b> Bandol Bellet Cassis Palette Vin de Corse Vin de Corse Patrimonio Vin de Corse Coteaux d'Ajaccio Vin de Corse Calvi Vin de Corse Sartène Vin de Corse Coteaux du Cap Corse Vin de Corse Figari Vin de Corse Porto Vecchio	Gaillac Gaillac Premières Côtes Gaillac doux Gaillac moussoux Haut-Montravel Irouléguy Jurançon Jurançon sec Limoux nature Madiran Monbazillac Montravel Pacherenc du Vic Bilh Pécharmant Rosette Vin de Blanquette	Moulis or Moulis-en-Médoc Néac Parsac Saint-Emilion Pauillac Pomerol Premières Côtes de Blaye Premières Côtes de Bordeaux Puisseguin Saint-Emilion Sainte-Croix-du-Mont Saint-Emilion Saint-Estèphe Sainte-Foy-Bordeaux Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion Saint-Julien Sauternes	Rosé d'Anjou pétillant Rosé de Loire Sancerre Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil Savennières Savennières-Coulée-de-Serrant Savennières-Roches-aux-Moines Saumur Saumur pétillant Saumur moussoux Touraine Touraine Azay-le-Rideau Touraine Amboise Touraine Mesland Touraine pétillant Touraine moussoux Vouvray Vouvray pétillant Vouvray moussoux
<b>CHAMPAGNE</b> Champagne Rosé des Riceys (non-sparkling) Coteaux Champenois (non-sparkling)	<b>BOURGOGNE</b> Aloxe-Corton Auxey-Duresses Bâtard-Montrachet Beaune Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet Blagny Bonnnes Mares Bourgogne Bourgogne Aligoté Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Beaune Bourgogne-Hautes Côtes de Nuits Bourgogne Marsannay La Côte Bourgogne Passetoutains Chablis Chambertin Chambertin Clos deee Chambolle-Musigny Chapelle Chambertin Charmes-Chambertin Chassagne-Montrachet Chilly-les-Marange Chevalier Montrachet Chorey les Beaunes Clos de la Roche Clos de Tart Clos-de-Vougeot	<b>JURA ET SAVOIE</b> Arbois Arbois-Pupillin Arbois moussoux Château Châlon Crépy Côte du Jura Côte du Jura moussoux L'Etoile L'Etoile moussoux Roussette de Savoie Seysse Seysse moussoux Vin de Savoie	<b>LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON</b> Clairette de Bellegarde Clairette du Languedoc Collioure Fitou <b>SUD-OUEST</b> Bergerac Bergerac sec Béarn Blanquette de Limoux Cahors Côtes de Bergerac Côtes de Bergerac Moelleux Côtes de Bergerac Côtes de Saussignac Côtes de Buzet Côtes de Duras Côtes de Montravel Côtes du Frontonnais	<b>BORDEAUX</b> Barsac Blaye Bordeaux Bordeaux Supérieur Bordeaux moussoux Bordeaux-Haut-Benaug Bordeaux Côtes de Frars Bordeaux Côtes de Gascon Bourg or Bourgeais Cadillac Cérons Côtes Canon-Fronsac Côtes de Bourg Côte de Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux Saint-Macaire Côtes de Fronsac Entre-Deux-Mers Entre-Deux-Mers-Haut-Benaug Graves Graves de Mayres Haut-Médoc Lalande de Pomerol Librac Loupjac Lussac Saint-Emilion Margaux Médoc Montagne Saint-Emilion	<b>VAL DE LOIRE</b> Anjou Anjou Coteaux de la Loire Anjou pétillant Anjou moussoux Bourgueil Bonnezeaux Cabernet d'Anjou Chinon Coteaux de l'Aubance Coteaux du Layon Coteaux du Layon-Chaume Coteaux du Loir Coteaux de Saumur Crémant de Loire Jasnières Menetou Salon Montlouis Montlouis pétillant Montlouis moussoux Muscadet Muscadet de Coteaux de la Loire Muscadet de Sèvre-et-Maine Pouilly-sur-Loire Pouilly Fumé Quart-de-Chaumes Quincy Reuilly Rosé d'Anjou	<b>VINS DOUX NATURELS ET DE LIQUEUR</b> Banyuls Banyuls Rancio Clairette du Languedoc Frontignan Grand Roussillon Grand Roussillon Rancio Maury Maury Rancio Muscat de Beaumes de Venise Muscat de Frontignan Muscat de Lunel Muscat de Miraval Muscat de Rivesaltes Muscat de Saint-Jean-de-Minervois Pineau des Charentes Muscat de Saint-Jean-de-Minervois Rivesaltes Rivesaltes Rancio Rasteau Rasteau Rancio Vin de Frontignan

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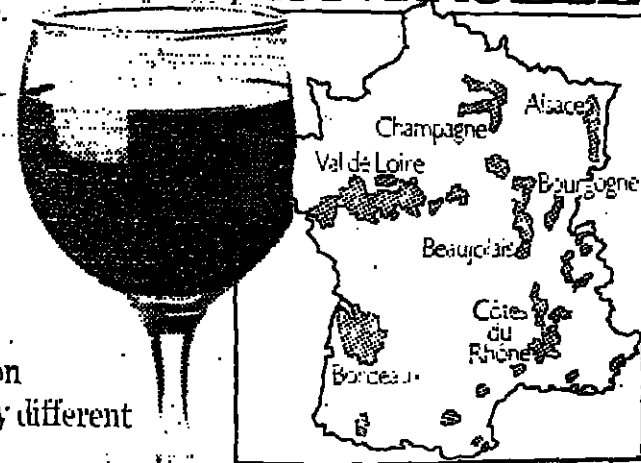
Whether it be a quirk of local climate or soil, every subtle variation is protected by A.C.

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the name of the particular cru, vineyard or château.

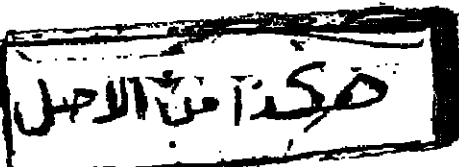
But however you see them written, the words Appellation Contrôlée are your guarantee that the wine you are buying is not only one of the best wine-growing regions of France. But has been produced to the most exacting, traditional French methods.

# APPELLATION CONTRÔLÉE





Other precautions were that if there was an earlier will it should be examined, and any proposed alterations should be discussed with the testator.





## WEST EUROPE

## Fate of oil conference depends on Britain

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov. 28

When the European Community heads of government meet in Rome on Monday and Tuesday, either Britain agrees to some compromise on its demand for separate damage payments at the energy conference in Paris on December 16 or the conference will not take place. That, at least, is how the matter is viewed here.

The French Government considers that very serious damage would be done to the cohesion and therefore the prestige of the Community if the conference met with Britain absent or only represented separately.

It would have been proved incapable of speaking with one voice in a matter vital to its own future and to its relations with the oil producers and the developing countries. It was better, in such circumstances, that the conference should be postponed.

Britain's attitude is considered the more disconcerting here because last July, Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, gave his French opposite number to understand that if a common mandate on energy was worked out before the energy conference, Britain would agree to being represented by the Community. Yet in September in Brussels he made it clear that even if such a mandate was worked out, Britain would insist on going it alone.

In the meantime, the French Government argues, a mandate has been worked out with British cooperation which really amounts to a Community policy in all respects save the setting of a floor price for oil.

The British Government, for obvious reasons, insists on this but the French Government is less convinced of its advantages, since there is very little likelihood in its view of the oil price falling to such an extent as to render British investment in North Sea oil uneconomic.

But these aspects of the case are considered relatively minor compared to the legitimate doubts cast by Britain's refusal to be represented by the Community. It inevitably prompts the suspicion that Britain does not wish the Community to progress beyond its present stage of a free trade area and an agricultural common market.

Our Bonn Correspondent writes: Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, expects "concrete agreements" to emerge from Monday's meeting in Rome, a Bonn Government spokesman said today.

The Chancellor told the leaders of the major eight Community members early this month setting out Bonn's ideas and wishes for a medium-term European policy. According to the spokesman, a number of replies had already responded positively.

## British trawlermen work uneasily under threat of fresh attacks

Three more vessels sent to defend cod war fleet

From Michael Horsnell  
On board the Miranda,  
off south-east Iceland, Nov. 28

It has been an uneasy 48 hours since Icelandic gunboats last attacked the British trawling fleet, for where they have left off the weather has taken over. Snow showers and gale force nine conditions, with moderate icing off north-east Iceland, resulted in poor conditions today.

Why the Icelanders have left the fleet alone is not yet clear, but there has been no feeling of elation because the daily routine is still governed by the threat of attack.

The Government support ship Miranda arrived from Hull on a five-week tour of duty. It will be joined tomorrow by two Royal Navy frigates.

The dispatch of the three vessels to the area indicates how seriously the threat of harassment and the need for support is taken: for each of the 1,000 or so British trawlermen off the Icelandic coast, there will now be another man to defend him.

The daily routine begins at 9.30 am when the Othello, the Government's other support ship in the area, begins its morning rounds. "All British trawlers, all British trawlers. Good morning. This is Othello."

## Icelanders disclose their tactics

Reykjavik, Nov. 28.—Iceland's Althing (Parliament) today approved a new fishing agreement reached with West Germany last week. Opposition parties opposed the measure but the Government had a majority of 42 votes to 18.

Under the treaty, 40 West German trawlers will be allowed to catch 60,000 tons of fish a year inside Iceland's new 200-mile limit, mostly cod and ocean perch. Only 5,000 tons will be cod.

Mr Hallgrímsson, the Prime Minister, told the Althing that Iceland's tactics in the quarrel with Britain were to reach agreements with other countries and then embarrass the British on the international stage.

Our Copenhagen Correspondent writes: Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, expects "concrete agreements" to emerge from Monday's meeting in Rome, a Bonn Government spokesman said today.

The Chancellor told the leaders of the major eight Community members early this month setting out Bonn's ideas and wishes for a medium-term European policy. According to the spokesman, a number of replies had already responded positively.

## Reshuffle expected in Spain within 10 days

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Nov. 28

King Juan Carlos is expected to announce changes in the Government within the next 10 days, according to reports published in Madrid today. The King has been talking at his Zarzuela Palace with a wide range of political figures who could form the nucleus of a new government.

Meanwhile, common criminals are being released gradually from prisons as a result of the King's general pardon announced on Tuesday, but there are no signs yet that the pardon will affect any political prisoners.

Authorities have sent out notices to prisoners ordering the release of prisoners who fall within the terms of the pardon. In Barcelona 50 common criminals have been released so far and, according to the director of the city's Model prison, Señor León Zalacain, another 500 to 600 out of a total of 1,500 are expected to be released soon.

The King will have to choose a new president of the Cortes and of the Council of the Realm within the next nine days, Señor Rodríguez de Valcarlos

problem of defence cover is more difficult.

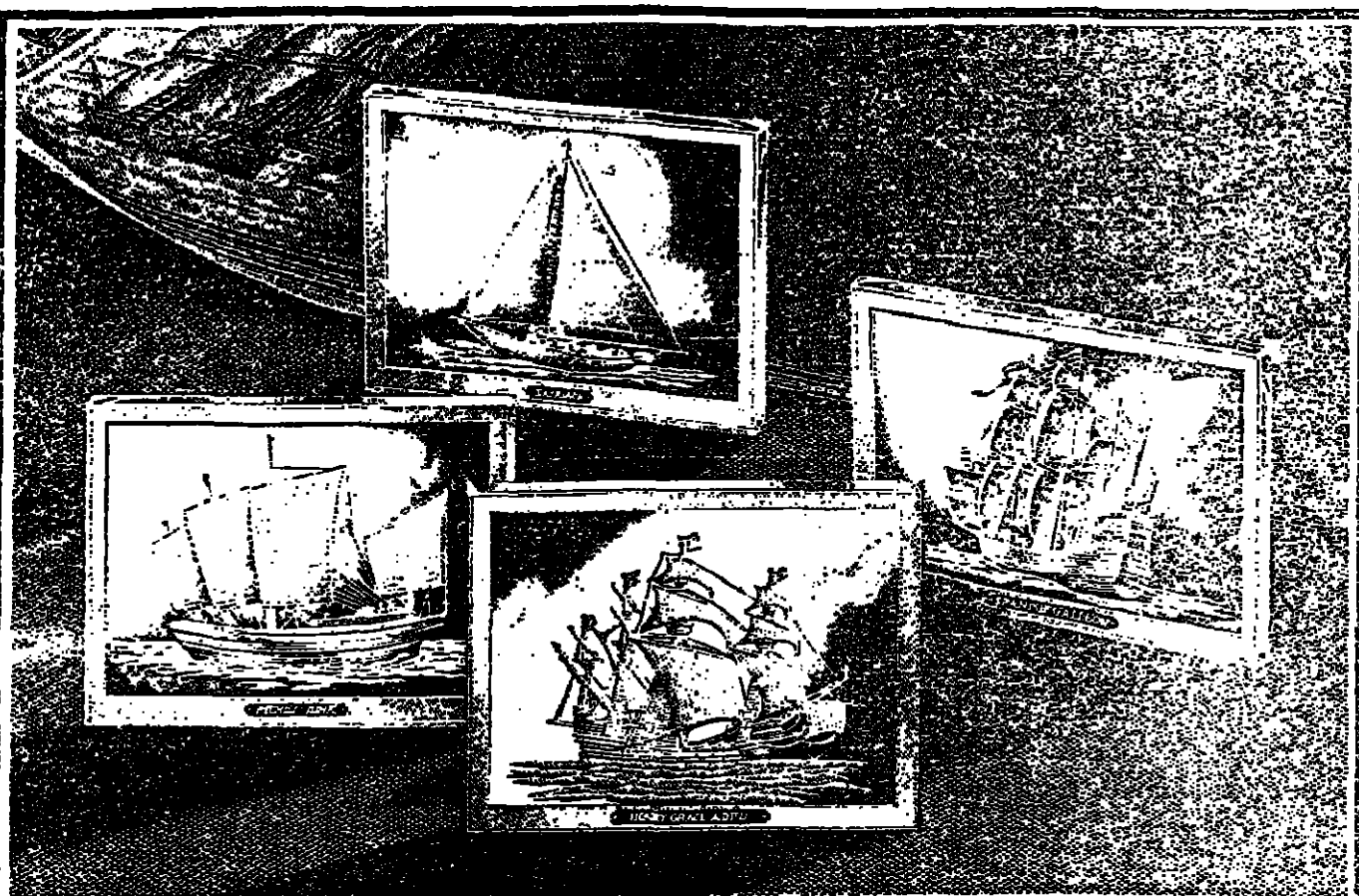
How long this third cod war will go on is anybody's guess, but it could be until the United Nations Law of the Sea conference next March, when the principle that all countries with coastlines should impose a 200-mile fishing limit is likely to be accepted.

Meanwhile, this bitter dispute about how much we can fish goes on. Probably the present full in hostilities is to allow the diplomats the right atmosphere in which to negotiate.

For the seamen, however, life is rather less delicate. On the Miranda, they have been warned that water rationing is possible before the tour of duty is up, and there is no chance of any shore leave. Yet despite the threat of hostility from Icelanders, the Miranda has to be prepared to dash into an Icelandic port even if it is refused permission.

Its Red Cross role means it may be called on at any time to take a sick or injured man off a trawler and take him ashore for hospital treatment.

Captain Willis Bown said: "I will tell the Icelandic coastguard that I am going in even if I am refused permission. I can't tell what the consequences might be, but we have a job to do."



Henry Grace à Dieu ingot shown approximately actual size.

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1975

## Jail term over building accident

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov. 28

On the same day that a company manager awaiting trial for a fatal labour accident was freed from prison on bail by the Rennes court of appeal, another manager in an accident case was sentenced at Troyes Assizes yesterday to a fortnight's imprisonment, 36 fines of 1,000 francs and ordered to pay damages of 5,000 francs (about £555).

The case was described by the public prosecutor, a woman known far her advanced views on justice, as one of the most serious the court had had to deal with. It involved a 17-year-old construction worker who fell 60ft from scaffolding one night last winter and suffered permanent nervous disorders as a result. The only safety precaution had consisted of two loose ropes.

An inquiry conducted by the police and labour inspectors disclosed that all the employees of the firm worked a 12-hour shift each day, with a break of only one hour. The young worker concerned was below the age for night work and doctors had said he should do light duties only.

The defence pleaded that the employer, M Georges Martin, a

building contractor, was overworked with work and could not attend to every detail.

The public prosecutor demanded a fortnight's suspended sentence, but the court — presided over by a judge not known for advanced ideas — decided that so much negligence deserved an exemplary sentence.

"We judged with complete impartiality," the judge declared. "One must avoid any preconceived notions and apply the law with the intention of being equitable. In the Troyes region, labour accidents are frequent. Employers are not public enemies. We wished to inflict a light sentence on Georges Martin, who seemed to ignore all warnings, to remind him that the law exists."

As the conservative newspaper *L'Aurore* pointed out, it is years of indulgence towards breaches of safety regulations, has the value of a warning. Employers' associations can no longer protest against court decisions on the ground that they are dictated by the partisan mentality of young, progressive judges. Now they will have to launch a campaign to inform their members of the importance of safety measures

and the need to enforce them strictly.

M. Jean Lecanuet, the Minister of Justice, a man of liberal disposition, said in a recent radio interview that justice must attempt to protect society. "There are prisons," he said, "there are criminals. Honest folk must be protected. But there is on the other hand the need to ensure that those who can be rehabilitated have the chance to recover a place in society."

M. Lecanuet went on: "I think we must aim towards a justice which is always more human, a justice with a social dimension, safeguarding order against those who want to undermine it, but which promotes the development of the personality of all. "Justice must protect freedom from all forms of violence. It must at the same time consider each individual case to restore human dignity. In a free country, justice must be based on respect for human values and the human person. It must be swift, without being precipitate, more open and more welcoming. "Instead of criticizing judicial institutions, let us try to perfect them to bring them closer to man."

## Kidnapped woman's body found

Helsingborg, Sweden, Nov. 28.

The police found today the body of Miss Louise Marstrand whose parents had earlier received one of her severed fingers and a ransom note demanding 325,000 kronor (£36,000).

She was buried in a shallow grave near a road outside Helsingborg, about six miles from her parents' farm.

A man of 20, who the police allege, has confessed to strangling Miss Marstrand while travelling with her in a car from Helsingborg to Helsingborg, is being held on suspicion of murder. He has not yet been formally charged.

The man was detained after the operator of an hotel telephone switchboard had overheard a call he was making. According to the police, the man cut off the dead woman's finger and an accomplice wrapped it in a parcel and put it in the mailbox of her parents, Mr and Mrs Bertil Olsson. A taxi driver was paid to deliver the ransom note, the police added.

The police are searching for another man who worked as foreman for Mr Olsson. The police said that the man who had planned the kidnapping had advertised in a newspaper for an accomplice.

## Four will stand trial over raid on embassy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov. 28

Three men and a woman were formally charged today with responsibility for the terrorist raid on the West German Embassy in Stockholm last April.

Dr Siegfried Buback, the federal Attorney-General, announced that he had laid charges alleging two murders, seizure of hostages, and attempted coercion of the Federal Government. The accused are Lutz Aufer, aged 31, a student; Karl-Heinz Dellwo, aged 23, unemployed; Bernhard Rössner, aged 25, a photographer; and Hanna Krabbe, aged 30, a student.

Six terrorists, who sought the release of 26 people in West German prisons, stormed the embassy building and took 13 of the staff hostage. The military attaché, Colonel Andreas von Mirbach, and the economic counsellor, Herr Heinz Hillebrand, were killed. One terrorist was killed in gun battle with Swedish police, and another died later from wounds.

The trial will take place in the Düsseldorf state high court, but no date has been fixed yet.

## EEC to attack poverty in member states

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Nov. 28

The European Commission has approved expenditure of £1m in 1975 and £1.1m in 1976 in a programme of pilot projects and studies aimed at reducing poverty in EEC countries.

Twenty-one projects have been selected for Community aid, which in most cases amounts to 50 per cent of the cost. They are designed to test and develop new methods of helping individuals and families whose "resources are so small as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life of the member state in which they live".

The allocation for Britain is £192,500 in 1975 and £229,000 in 1976. Among the beneficiaries are two self-help, anti-poverty programmes being conducted near Edinburgh. The funds also will be used to help to pay for a study by the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services of the extent to which Government and voluntary services are being used to tackle housing, health and education problems.

## Abductors of Fiat chief's relative keep silence

From Our Correspondent  
Milan, Nov. 28

There was still no news tonight of Signora Carla Ovazza, who was kidnapped on Wednesday night in Turin. She is the mother-in-law of the daughter of Signor Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat.

A rumour that a ransom of 10m lire (about £6,670) had been asked was denied today. However, contacts with the kidnappers are usually denied by the family while negotiations are going on.

Another rumour that the kidnappers had told Fiat officials that Signora Ovazza

had been abducted as a "reprise" against Fiat, was also denied.

The police do not rule out the possibility of political motives, and the Red Brigades are being mentioned.

At the same time as the kidnapping an unusually high number of robberies took place in Turin. This might have aimed at keeping the police busy.

Another factor is the arrest earlier this month of a left-wing couple in whose house papers referring to a "Stalin plan" for the kidnapping of Signor Agnelli were seized. From the papers it appeared that the plan was judged "too difficult and too dangerous".

## German pay packets hit

Bonn, Nov. 28.—West German

workers will have to increase their insurance contributions by 50 per cent to help pay for the million people out of work; Parliament decided here today.

The increase, which comes into force on New Year's Day, hits the pay packets of more than 20 million employees. It was one of the measures laid before the Bundestag (Lower

House) today to deal with the economic recession.

Monthly contributions will amount to 3 per cent of an employee's wages up to a maximum of DM3,100 (£584). The present rate is 2 per cent up to a maximum wage of DM2,800. Employers and employees pay equal shares.

Parliament also trimmed aid for widows and orphans and reduced re-training grants.—Reuters.











# THE TIMES SATURDAY REVIEW

Sir Laurence Grafftey-Smith's *The Locket*

was a runner-up in the

Ghost Story Competition which *The Times* ran with

Jonathan Cape earlier this year.

The *Locket* and twelve other stories have

been published this week

by Jonathan Cape in a collection,

*The Times* Anthology of Ghost Stories, price £2.95.

When old Madame de Pavillac died, her three daughters found themselves with some farmland, a hundred hectares of forest, and a chateau that had been the family home for nearly 500 years. There was no way of dividing the estate without selling the house, and nobody wanted to pay the price the sisters asked. Their agent suggested letting the chateau "to some rich Americans"; and it was to Pavillac, now named by my friends the Ogilvies, that I was invited for a summer holiday, after a more than usually exhausting season on Broadway.

I was looking forward to the visit. Donald Ogilvie and I were friends at Yale, and Anne was acting with me in a revival of *Some Four* when they first met. I cannot share Donald's enthusiasm for manoeuvring masses of marble into surreal shapes; but he can afford his hobby, and it hurts no-one. I particularly wanted to see Penelope, my god-daughter, again, for I thought of her not only as an adorable child but also as a great artist in the making. Charles Lemesle, who had her at the piano since she was five, had told me that there was very little more he could teach her.

I drove down from the coast, stopping the night at Vendôme, and reached Pavillac next afternoon. Like so many villages in the Dordogne, it nestles on the slope of a hill, and the few primitive shops clustered round the smithy suggested no adequate congregation for the great church, whose Romanesque door and windows dominate the tiny Place Gambetta. I was instructed to keep straight on and take an avenue on the left, round the curve of the hill. This avenue mounted, twisting and turning through the woods, for about a mile, before bringing me to the chateau; and I had to cross a genuine water-filled moat by a no less authentic drawbridge to reach the gravel sweep in front of the house. I had a confused impression of towers, and of a long mulioned facade in the golden stone of the region, before Donald and Anne came running to bid me welcome.

They were both in great form. Anne was looking better than I had seen her for years, and Donald was full of plans for putting a north light into an enormous barn and using it as a studio. When Anne had told me all about the walled kitchen-garden, and the unexpectedly efficient plumbing, and the family retainers, I asked where my god-daughter was.

"I hope the chateau runs to a harpsichord or something for her," I said.

"Oh! I thought Donald had told you about Penny," said Anne, suddenly serious.

"I thought Anne had written to you," said Donald.

"Why? Is anything wrong?"

"Nothing's really wrong," Donald was very emphatic. "But she was taking too much out of herself and has to have a rest."

"I was Lemesle who noticed it first," Anne explained. "He told us that Penny's music was burning her up. That's how he put it. She always was completely what the word?—absorbed. You remember that week in Stockholm. But lately it got so that she couldn't bear to be doing anything else. And I found she wasn't sleeping properly. You haven't seen her for some time, David. Technically, and artistically, she's developed in the most remarkable way."

"Composition? Believe it or not," said Donald, interrupting. "Extraordinary stuff. Completely mature. Lemesle says..."

Lemesle says it frightens him," said Anne. "It's miles away from her age and experience. She's only 14, after all. We felt we had to have an opinion, of course, and the specialist seemed to understand at once. He insisted on Penny having at least six months away from all music just running wild. He said it might even have to be two years. There's not a piano in the house. Not even a wireless set, or a record-player."

"We were sitting in the great drawing-room, looking out over the poplar-green valley of the Dordogne. The light seemed suddenly to have dimmed in the sky."

"How's she taking all this?" I asked anxiously. The thought of Penny condemned to live in a world without music was a tragic one.

"She couldn't be sweeter or more reasonable," Donald assured me. "Lemesle handled her beautifully. He told her that a longish pause now would be the very best thing, not only for her but for her music. He advised her to go away and fill herself to the brim with sunshine and pine-woods and goat-cheese and fairy stories and Montbazillac—that's our local wine, rather good."

"He saw my raised eyebrows and added, 'One glass with each meal!'"

"Anyway," said Anne, "she's a different girl already."

"You asked where she was," continued Donald. "Ten to one you'll find her down by the swimming-pool, in the woods. She takes and sun-bathes every day, and looks pretty good on it."

"I'll go and find her," I said, getting up. "I have a little present for her."

But at that moment, Penny came running into the room. As soon as she saw me, she jumped into my arms. I was kissed on the nose, the mouth and both ears.



Illustration by Michael Trevithick

"Lovely! Lovely!" she kept saying. "Oh, Uncle David! I'm really and truly lovely to see you again. How long can you stay?"

I told her that I had no job until they began filming *Nightshade* in October, and that I was there until her Papa threw me out. Then I took a small tissue-paper parcel from my pocket.

"Here!" I said. "Something to remind you that you're almost an old lady now."

It was only a little necklace of seed-pearls, but I had fallen for it at sight. Penny loved it. It was early Eighteenth Century French work, and it carried a gold and enamel locket, containing a curl of faded yellow hair. Penny went straight to the mirror and put it on, admiring herself unashamedly.

I watched her. I was not happy at what I saw. She was, indeed, a different girl from the Penelope I had seen two years before. She had grown, of course, and gracefully. Her bright corn hair, worn in two long plaits, was already darker than the spun gold I remembered, in spite of the bleach of the sun. It was her eyes that worried me: slate-blue and dark-lashed, they looked too big for her face. I didn't know whether this was a symptom of too much music or too little; but they were the eyes of a woman, of an unhappy woman; they were not the eyes of a fourteen-year-old girl.

"Has this locket got a story?" she asked, "or must we make one up ourselves?"

"I only know that that's the de Pavillac crest on the back of it," I answered. "I found

that out in the shop in London. It was too much of a coincidence altogether: I just had to get it for you. You can make up any story you like about the lady who first wore it, but you can be pretty sure she wore it here, in Pavillac."

She studied the little thing carefully.

"Here's a sort of dragon with a crown," she said. "We've got him all over the place in the house here. And what does this stand for?"

"The lady's initial, I suppose. V for Valentine; V for Veronique; V for whatever it was."

"You realize, I hope," she said solemnly, "that it's the nicest present I've ever had? Now I must go and show it to everybody." She ran from the room.

Except at dinner-time, I didn't see much of Penny for the next few days. She spent her time somewhere down in the woods, while Anne or Donald in turn, of both of them, launched me on "the society or took me to the sights of the neighbourhood. Every day brought new delight. Donald had a passion for the Périgord castles: Biron, Beynac and Bonaguil, he peopled them with troubadours and joustings. Anne and I preferred the rivers, those dreaming Dordogne rivers, moving somnambulant through the poplar-trees. But I had to plead for a rest from tourist activity and from the gargantuan luncheons of the local squirearchy.

So it must have been a week or 10 days before I explored Penny's neck of the woods. It was late afternoon. Anne showed me the general line of

my way from the dining-room window, and as I followed path after path rustling with dry leaves, down cathedral-lanes of beech and oak, I found myself resenting the outrage of a modern swimming-pool in this green peace. I need not have worried. I turned my last corner and came to a clearing in the forest, where huge trees stood in a circle round a rush-fringed lake. The air became suddenly very still, and I had a strange feeling that I was intruding, as if I were interrupting something. I could see no path continuing into the woods beyond the lake. The world came to an end there.

Penny, naked as a goldfish, was lying on the grass, her arms outflung behind her head, smiling at the sun. She had not heard me coming. I didn't want to embarrass her, so I stepped quietly back into the wood and came out again, whistling. She made a swoop for a towel, and fixed it before she looked up to see who it was.

"Well, Uncle David!" she cried, "at last you've come! And high time, too!" She pat the turf hospitably. I sat down by her side.

"This towel was in case you were the gardener," she saw fit to explain.

"Good idea, keep it on!" I said hastily. "Oughtn't you to be wearing sun-glasses?"

"The sun never bothers me!" she replied.

If one could forget those eyes, she certainly was the picture of health. She was tanned all over to a warm apricot russet. Her strong young hands and that little ripple of muscle between her shoulders were part of her pianist's equip-

ment. But her eyes were now shadowed with dark lines, lines which had not been there when I came to Pavillac. The contrast of the young face and those fevered eyes was the more shocking because Penny seemed to be entirely happy and carefree, laughing and chattering like any school-girl of her age.

"Daddy's just crazy about his old barn, isn't he?" she was saying. "It's because it has big double doors going right up to the roof. Did he tell you he's planning to sculpt something really monumental, a group of Druids? We have a dolmen here, you know. But no one knows what Daddy's Druids will look like when he's finished with them!"

"Penelope Ogilvie!" I said, "that's an unflattering remark."

She was silent for a moment, and I felt again how abnormally still everything seemed. There was no singing of birds; there was no whisper of leaves in the trees. The sun beat down, unveiled by any cloud, and the sky lay molten blue in the mirror of the lake. Even the reeds were motionless. Heat and light were both so pure and so intense they ceased to be familiar experiences; they became symbols of some elemental phenomenon. A nagging impression of expectancy in the silence was insistent.

"I hate to go," said Penny, "but I think perhaps we ought to get back to the house. Isn't it about time for tea or a drink or something? The sun will soon be gone behind those trees."

She slipped on a bright scarlet bathrobe and began collecting her odds and ends, wrapping knitting-needles and some light-blue wool carefully in a silk scarf.

"Something very, very secret, for Mummy's birthday," she explained, smiling. "She mustn't see it yet." Then the smile died from her face, which blurred and suddenly became a mask.

"There's quite a lot that that unpleasant bitch must not see, besides my knitting!" she said. "Because now I know a lot of things—such a lot of things. Her voice had become deeper, siller. She laughed, but it was a stupid, evil giggle of complicity.

"Penny!" I cried, "She looked up at me, blinking. The mask wavered and broke, like sunlight in water. Youth and innocence flowed back into her face."

"You're looking very serious all of a sudden!" she said. "I'll race you through the wood. Bet you I get to the house first!" She was off into the trees like a startled dryad.

I could not follow her until I had sat down for a moment on the flower-spangled turf. The trees and the lake and all the air around me throbbled in the burning silence. Once more I had the feeling that here the world came to an end.

I said nothing to the Ogilvies. I did not know what to say. I wanted time to think things over.

Penny was completely and charmingly herself all the evening. She duly trumped her partner's account of her habit of hers—when we played Family Bridge before her very early bedtime. I began to wonder whether I had had some sort of hallucination, and I slept

# The locket

by

Sir Laurence  
Grafftey-Smith

memories of smells are of all the most evocative. I was standing back at the chateau, branding on my grandfather's Penny's shoulder was the mark of a deep and very recent burn. And it was fading before my eyes.

"I wouldn't worry about it if I were you," I said with some difficulty. "It seems to be going away. Are you off to the pool already? Is there any sun there now?"

"It's a real sun-trap. All day long. Perhaps that's why the Druids had their dolmen there."

"Oh!" I said. "Is that where it is?"

"In the trees, on the other side of the pool, it's not much to look at really. Just some old stones and a little underground room. Are you coming down with me?" She put on her robe again.

For reasons of my own I wanted to go very much, and I was going to tell her so; but I decided to stay away. I said I had letters to write and would come and fetch her for lunch. I was thinking hard. As she turned to the door, I made up my mind.

"Tell me, Penny darling," I said, and my own voice sounded strange to me, "what do you like best about Pavillac? What do you like best of all? Your mother says—I repeated the words slowly, "your mother says—your mother says—I waited."

It worked. It happened again. It was horrible.

Her face blurred, like wax melting, and seemed to reshape itself into an expression of vicious cunning. Her pigtail were swinging over her scarlet bathrobe. She caught them and tugged them, and then she began unfastening them.

"What I most love is learning about things," she said, in that new oily voice. "It's wonderful. Quite different from my music. I think you know what I mean. Uncle David; I can guess that. But you can only know a little; my friend knows everything. I've only known him for one little week and it seems like a hundred days."

She paused. "Like a hundred and twenty days," she said, looking at me as if she was saying something important; "a hundred and twenty days. But if you say a word about it to that human sow you mentioned just now, I'll ask my friend to hurt you. Or to tell me how I can hurt you."

"I heard myself shouting: 'Penny, come back! Penny! For Christ's sake, come back!'"

Her face changed as I watched her, and she was suddenly Penny again, laughing in surprise to find her pigtail were half-loosened.

"Till lunch-time, then!" she said. "I don't dare be late!" She blew me a kiss and was gone.

I dressed quickly and found my way to the big barn, where Donald was busy discussing with the blacksmith details of the new glazing in the roof. I asked him to get Anne to come downstairs at once. A few minutes later we were all sitting on the terrace, round a flimsy wicker table under a gaudy beach-umbrella, and I was trying to tell them about Penny.

It wasn't easy. They looked at each other puzzled, and then they looked at me as if I were out of my mind. They didn't seem to understand a word I said. I may well have been a little incoherent; I was very frightened.

At last Donald realized that I was desperately serious. He ground his cigarette out distastefully.

"Are you telling us," he said, "that Penny spends her time at the pool flirting with some village Don Juan? If so, I don't believe a word of it; but we can easily find out. I can see you're worried, David. I'm quite sure you're absolutely wrong!"

"That isn't what I've been trying to tell you at all," I said impatiently.

"But I thought you said..." Anne began.

"Tell me all about Pavillac," I said, interrupting her. "Is that dolmen authentic?"

"It's listed as a monument historique; that's all I know."

"Is it, perhaps, on the site of some earlier temple?" I asked.

"That seems most unlikely," he replied. "There was a temple of Veaus somewhere near here, I believe; there are Gallo-Roman remains all over the Dordogne. But all that would be rather later than the Druids, not earlier."

"Dolmen may, of course, have been used for worship, in Roman times. What's the idea?"

"Just that I don't think Penny's new friend is a local character," I said. "Or a summer visitor, for that matter. And I'm sure that what's going on is something much worse than a girl's flirtation. That's why I must know about Pavillac, whether it has any special history, legends, anything I want to know."

"Influences—if that's the right word—what influences may exist near that pool or in the corner of the woods?"

"Oh, my God!" cried Anne and began biting her knuckles. "L'Estropie!"

I looked at her, puzzled.

"What Anne has just remembered," Donald explained, "is that a most unpleasant man called Gilles de Pavillac lived here in the early 1700s: a Haysmanic character. He murdered his wife, very horribly. And he was a stealing children for him to torture and use, boys and girls."

Continued on opposite page

سكندرية











## The Times records of the month

كنا من الأصل

## Devout vespers

Monteverdi: *Vesperae Mariae*. Virginis; Magnificat a 6; Missa in illo tempore. Soloists: Regensburg Cathedral Choir. DG Archiv 2723 043. £7.50.

Mozart: Mass K 139. Soloists: Leipzig Radio Chorus and SO/Kögel. Philips 6500 866. £3.10.

Mozart: Masses K 192, K 259. Soloists/Leipzig. Philips 6500 867. £3.10.

most beautiful, most unified, most contemplative performance to be had on records. The Vespers, in their normal complete form, occupy two discs. The third, the alternative, purely vocal Magnificat setting and the Missa "in illo tempore".

The two Mozart records offer three of the masses of his early years.

The Mass in C minor K139 is in fact his first; its revised Köchel number, 474, places it correctly as the work of a 13-year-old. No need to be deceived by that: it is an assured piece in the standard Italianate Austrian tradition. Nor should one be deceived by its pre-guessive key, for this is no precursor of the famous minor Mass K 427 but a work which proclaims its nature as music written for a solemn festive occasion. In point of fact, it is virtually a C major Mass with three movements having minor-key introductions.

K139 is a longish, solemn Mass, taking a whole record: the Gloria and Credo are split into several movements and culminate in extended, well-worked fugues. The other two masses were written not for Vienna but for Salzburg, where the reformist Archbishop Colloredo favoured shorter services: no time for elaborate fuguing in K192 and 259, where the Gloria and Credo are each a single movement with just a brief drop to Andante in K259 for the "Et incarnatus". But Mozart always found space to do something interesting: in K192 the Credo is fantastically built, around the four-note "Lucis Creator" plain-song theme that he was to make famous in the Jupiter Symphony finale, and in K259 there is a charming organ solo in the Benedictus.

These Leipzig performers give readings brisk to a degree that might have taken back even Colloredo. Mozart's "Osanna" settings may be a shade perfunctory, but perhaps not to the extent they seem to be here. Yet the spirit is right, and the playing and choral singing (with mixed choir) clean and unaffected. Celestina Caspietra has a light, steady soprano that does not always seem perfectly in tune, but Annelies Burmeister and Peter Schreier do the middle parts smoothly and elegantly.

Vivaldi wrote more concertos for the bassoon than for any other instrument besides the violin, and probably more than anyone else has done. Four at a time should be enough for most people: the quartet of concertos here offer variety aplenty. Klaus Thunemann shows himself a bassoonist of exceptional agility, outstanding smoothness of tone and uncommon eloquence.

Stanley Sadie

These Leipzig performers give readings brisk to a degree that might have taken back even Colloredo. Mozart's "Osanna" settings may be a shade perfunctory, but perhaps not to the extent they seem to be here. Yet the spirit is right, and the playing and choral singing (with mixed choir) clean and unaffected. Celestina Caspietra has a light, steady soprano that does not always seem perfectly in tune, but Annelies Burmeister and Peter Schreier do the middle parts smoothly and elegantly.

Stanley Sadie

## MAHLER KARAJAN

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## Poignant rendering of a sad symphony

Stokowski: Symphony No. 10. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3090. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 2. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3091. £3.20.

Stokowski: Variations. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3092. £3.20.

Stokowski: North Country Sketches. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3093. £3.20.

Stokowski: RPO/Groves. HMV ASD 3094. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 4. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3095. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 5. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3096. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 6. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3097. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 7. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3098. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 8. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3099. £3.20.

Stokowski: Symphony No. 9. Vishnuskaya / Reshetina. HMV ASD 3100. £3.20.

My first three records find musicians cast in unaccustomed roles. Admittedly we are becoming more used to Rostropovich as a conductor, but it still comes as something of a surprise to find him fulfilling that part rather than sitting on his collar. No work could better fit his fundamentally subjective personality than Shostakovich's 14th symphony, conceivably the greatest of his late works. With the composer's own death earlier this year, his preoccupation with death itself in this orchestral song-cycle becomes even more poignant.

The symphony is dedicated to Britten, whose influence can be felt strongly in the shape and content of the work, even in the musical idiom - remains, of course, very much Shostakovich's own. Rostropovich brings out all the stark, alternately sardonic, fantastic, satirical and grotesque (strings and percussion only), and its difficulties are easily overcome by the Moscow Philharmonic. The two experienced soloists could not be bettered by any other. Rostropovich's tone, spare settings of Lorca, Apollinaire, Kitchener (the moving lament for Delvig, Pushkin's colleague) and Rilke with unfailing immediacy.

Giulini turns up in unusual guise as a Bruckner conductor. The results are enjoyable, but hardly idiomatic. He chooses the cut, 1877 version of the score, which will offend the Brahms variations on the reverse is predictably dullness, but they do make Brahms sound more like Tchaikovsky and sometimes catch the NPO napping. Stokowski's performance, but there they are carried to a fault. This is a wilful, energetic interpretation extraordinary from a conductor well into his nineties. Its hair-raising changes of pace are an insurance against dullness, but they do make Brahms sound more like Tchaikovsky and sometimes catch the NPO napping. Stokowski's speed leaves room for a filler; there is none on the Kempe record.

Marinon is busy recording much of the French repertoire for EMI. His latest offering is something really rare, two previously unpublished symphonies by Saint-Saëns. The student work in A would certainly be a good entry for any Christmas quiz, with Mendelssohn as the most likely answer. The F major work dates from three years later when the composer was still only 18, but by now the composer was finding his own form with a demonic Scherzo that suggests the future composer of opera and a sombre slow movement of considerable power and individuality. The performances by the French National Radio Orchestra are excellent.

Strasbourg Philharmonic is also an accomplished band. Alain Lombard, their regular conductor who also directs them in the much improved Opéra du Rhin, here makes out a good case for Fauré's neglected *Pelléas et Mélisande*, different but in some ways as appropriate as Debussy, who is himself represented here by the *L'Après-midi d'un faune* preludes, exquisitely played. Ravel's *Pavane* for the dead, Stravinsky's *Les Noces*, the second suite, complete an engrossing and attractive disc. Beecham was, of course, always a welcome advocate of French music. The album of Beecham brings back famous performances of overtures, *Harold in Italy* (with Primrose as unsurpassed soloist) and the *Telemachus*. The old 1950 recordings are dim, not so the interpretations. The sound on the Liszt and Lalo reissues of 1959-60 performances is fully up to modern standards, and Beecham gives both works with the dedication he brought to special favourites of each. These are gramophone classics, and it is good to have them available again, especially at the modest asking price.

Alan Blyth

## Remarkable conducting by Muti

Verdi: *Un ballo in maschera*. Arroyo / Domingo / Cappuccilli. New Philharmonia/Muti EMI SLS 984. £9.50.

Arias from *Sherrill*. Milnes. New Philharmonia/Muti EMI SLS 985. £2.99.

Verdi: *Falstaff*. Schwarzkopf / Barbieri / Gobbi / Perali. Philharmonia Orchestra/Karajan EMI SLS 5037. £5.40.



Music cover for the Ballo in maschera quadrille by Charles Coote.

There has been no lack of recordings of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* over the past dozen years and almost every one has something going for it. There is Solti's electric conducting on Decca and Bergonzi's elegant Riccarda, role of a repeated layer for RCA, with Leontyne Price occasionally wayward but never less than thrilling as Amelia. Decca on a subsequent set scored with Pavarotti's Riccardo and Sherrill Milnes's Renato.

A new Ballo then has to sell itself. EMI, I fancy, will not have too much difficulty with their recording out at the beginning of next month. It is the most satisfying account of the opera currently on the market and it has a superb conductor in Riccardo Muti. He understands instinctively the bizarre mixture of levity and gloom, passion and mockery, which makes Ballo so difficult to bring off in the theatre. There is from the start a Solite sense of drama as the mutterings of the courtiers are suddenly pierced by Oscar's "Savanza il Conte" (Ricci Grist repeats the chirpy, dapper page the sang for RCA some years ago). Muti is able to move effortlessly from the Rossini style patter ensemble, which ends this opening scene, to the totally committed passion between Riccardo and Amelia. He flicks away the horror of the Ulterior's prophetic of imminent death as Riccardo launches into "E scherzo od è follia". It is a remarkable piece of conducting and the New Philharmonia and the Covent Garden Chorus both respond to it splendidly. Plácido Domingo and Piero Cappuccilli, who starred in the Scala Ballo a few Christmas scales, which Franco Zeffirelli produced, are the Riccardo and Renato as indeed they were at Covent Garden earlier this year. The Scala staging had its critics, although I certainly was not among them, but there was general approval for the two men. And so there should be here on record. Domingo's performance is passionate and forthright; it would be difficult to imagine him singing in the Swedish setting of the opera, he is always the philandering

## Instantly appreciated

Wagner: *The Ringedold*. English National Opera Singers and Orchestral/Muti EMI SLS 5032. 4 records. £8.95.

Tippett: *A Child of Our Time*. Norman / Baker / Cassilly / Shirley-Quirk/BBC Singers, Choral Society and SO/Colin Davis. Philips 6500 985. £3.10.

Kathleen Ferrier: *Lieder*. Recital with EMI Singers and Orchestral/Muti EMI SLS 5032. 2 records. £3.95.

In nice time for Christmas shopping, EMI publishes the second leg of Wagner's *The Ring* in English, recorded live, in a performance at the London Coliseum, by the English National Opera under Reginald Goodall. It is not only to those who have seen and enjoyed the *ENO Ring*, or to potential enthusiasts who speak no German, that this *Ring* is recommended. For someone who knows the German text and can understand it in performance, there is still an extra immediacy in hearing the piece sung in one's own native tongue. That is the true of *Andrew Lloyd Webber*, at least as strong on record as in the theatre: the words are plain and forceful, instantly appreciated. There are even German Wagnerians who prefer Porter's English text to the convoluted German of Wagner's original.

The strength of this *Ring* (as of last year's recorded English *Siegfried*) is that Goodall has taught the Coliseum company an authentic yet distinctive style, which allows words to be understood while they are being truly sung against a fully saturated orchestral texture. On the records we can thank EMI's producer John Mordler who squares this *Ring* with the style and wit, and powerful reproduction of Goodall's orchestral interpretation - grand brass sonority in the Valhalla theme, whacking drums for the giants, *marvellous* *tambour*, and cymbals, a shimmering thunder of the Wagner's percussion, stunning climaxes for the curse on love and the fetching-up of

Alberich's golden ransom and his last exit. The dramatic atmosphere is consistently strong, even to an audible fog just before "Heda, Hedo!" - doubtless the Coliseum steam-curtain carefully miked. Considering that the records emanate from live performances, there are few fluffs or errors, the noise of scene-shifting is only once disturbing, the audience keeps quiet until applause after the last chord. I have dwelt on the fine orchestral sound because it is important in *The Ringedold*, and because (as can infrequently be remarked) the ENO Orchestra is not a world-class band. The cast, for all that it sings in English, does not suffer by comparison with the best. Norman Bailey, emotionally complicated Wotan, Derek Hammond-Stroud's painfully ambitious, terribly sensitive Alberich, and Emile Belcourt's famous interpretations by now. Anne Collins's Erda and Katherine Pring's discreetly singing Fricka are strong impressions; the Rhinemaidens and giants are perceptibly differentiated. All this, appreciated in the theatre, is tacitly transferred to disc by Mr Mordler and his team who have engineered the records so that the tape-recorded sound is compatible for two-channel stereophonic equipment. Goodall takes one record longer, over *Rheingold*, than his recorded rivals. The *Valkyrie*, presumably to be recorded, turning the Coliseum run in December.

One might regard the new *Ring* gold as an offering for next year's centenary of *The Ring*. The new Philips recording of Michael Tippett's cantata *A Child of Our Time* is itself intended to commemorate the composer's recent 70th birthday. This consummate eloquent oratorio, not on a biblical theme but sparked off by a just-published newspaper story, suggested in 1944 that the veil of Handel's *Messiah*, supposed dead and rotten, was contrarily alive and kicking. A recording of this *Ring* gold as an offering for next year's centenary of *The Ring*. The new Philips recording of Michael Tippett's cantata *A Child of Our Time* is itself intended to commemorate the composer's recent 70th birthday. This consummate eloquent oratorio, not on a biblical theme but sparked off by a just-published newspaper story, suggested in 1944 that the veil of Handel's *Messiah*, supposed dead and rotten, was contrarily alive and kicking. A recording of this

ing even the two books of teaching pieces (no rival for Mikrokosmos) John McCabe plays all this music with considerable personal commitment as well as incisive assurance. Of the normal monthly run, Ashkenazy's Scriabin recital is outstanding. He was clever to start with the third sonata, rooted in romantic tradition, so as to emphasize the distance from the Scriabin of the 43 years. Besides being supremely satisfying as pianism pure and simple, his performance keenly reflects the composer's stylistic transition from an emotional norm to hyper-charged, mystical neuroticism. Whether Chopin, one of Scriabin's early loves, is the happiest hunting ground for Alicia de Larrocha is a moot point. Atmospheric evocation in the 24 Preludes is vivid though now and again pointing-making might be thought obtrusive as presaged by those heavily accented second beats of the first piece. But whatever this pianist does is done with enough aristocracy of style to encourage acceptance. The Berceuse she plays with rhythmically yielding tenderness.

William Mann

## Birthday triumph for Kempff

List: Piano Works. Kempff. DG 2530 560. £3.25.

Chopin and Liszt: Piano Works. RCA ARL1-1030. £2.99.

Nielsen: Piano Music Complete. McCabe. Decca SDD 475 and 476. £1.99 each.

Scriabin: Piano Sonatas Nos 3, 4, 5 and 9. Ashkenazy. Decca SXL 6705. £2.25.

Scriabin: 24 Preludes; Berceuse. McCabe. Decca SXL 6733. £3.25.

Beethoven: Piano Sonatas Nos 25, 26 and 27. Gilels. DG 2530 589. £3.25.

Mozart: Fantasy and Sonata, K 475 and K 457 and other works. Arrau. Philips 6500 782. £3.10.



Wilhelm Kempff

On Tuesday Wilhelm Kempff was 80. In celebration Deutsche Grammophon has not only reissued past performances of Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt, but also invited him to record a brand new recital of Liszt.

How pleasant, then, to hail this disc as a triumph of the spirit over the inroads of time. Mr Kempff plays with the glowing serenity of a St Francis Schumann in the *Adagio*, the staid who in fact shares most of the second side with his namesake who talked to the birds. Apart from a trace of unclear pedalling (difficult to avoid in the rolling sea of the *Adagio*) are as gratifying in sound as in vision. The rest of the recital goes to the Italian book (Volume II) of *Années de pèlerinage*, except that instead of trying to storm high heaven (or the gates of hell) in the *Dante* sonata (No 7) Mr Kempff wisely substitutes the charming little *Adagio* from *Venezia e Napoli*. With Liszt in uncommonly introverted mood in most of these Italian pieces, Mr Kempff is rarely strained: his playing neither lacks strength nor, for the most part, intensity. His simple sincerity deepens respect for the music itself.

After the oldest, the youngest, which is to say the 26-year-old Polish born Emanuel Ax, winner of the first Rubinstein Competition in Israel last year. Liszt's debut on disc, too, though here in the guise of transcriber and dazzler. Odd as it is that

## Bridge A short route to grand slam

Bridge, like human society, evolves through the acceptance and rejection of conventions. It has reached the stage of development when some of the artificialities must be thrown on the dustheap, and a good beginning might be made with the Culbertson grand slam force. It is a superfluous adjunct to approach bidding, because the hand for which it is especially caters is dealt about once a year.

To put the convention in a nutshell, and jump to Five No Trumps as soon as the trumps are agreed is an unconditional demand that partner with one of the three top honours in the trump suit bid Five Clubs with two of the three top honours raises immediately to a grand slam. He responses differ from those the Blackwood convention through the absence of a preliminary Four No Trumps asking for aces. The suit in which the bid is to be played can be agreed inferentially in the absence of opposition: e.g. North, One spade - South, Three Diamonds - North Five No Trumps. North is asking whether his partner has a King of Spades or a King of Diamonds. South has any of these three combinations he responds Three Diamonds; otherwise Six Diamonds.

The essential feature to bear in mind if you have chosen a short route to the grand slam is that you must not show controls on the way. Otherwise you will fall into a trap similar

to the one which Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo, one of the greatest living partnerships dug for themselves. By blindly responding Seven Clubs to a ♠AQ after six exploratory rounds of bidding, to Belladonna's Five No Trumps on ♠AK109 ♣(-) ♢A97 ♣198632 Garozzo placed their holding of the world championship in jeopardy.

If such eminent players can arrive at a grand slam, after a Five No Trumps demand, which is a mere 13 per cent chance, what prospect of success with the convention have lesser performers? I brought up again this much-discussed contract, because so many partners forget that this particular grand slam force can only come into play when there are two rounds of bidding.

An example from a rubber will demonstrate its superfluity.

even where partners know each other's methods and have agreed beforehand that they are playing "Old-fashioned" ♠A(-) ♣No score; dealer East.

The auction took a standard course, with clubs made the trump suit and controls in diamonds and hearts shown in turn. South bid Five Clubs indicating that he had little interest in a slam, but his partner was more ambitious. North had one more trick than he had announced and he should have been satisfied to make a further effort by bidding Six Spades or Six Clubs. However, he modelled his bidding on the world champions and imagined that he could safely bid Five No Trumps, thus leaving his partner to respond Seven Clubs if he had full value for his bid. In his debut on disc, too, though here in the guise of transcriber and dazzler. Odd as it is that

Edward Mayer



هكذا من الاصل



## Old faces in new pastures



manner, we sense Parmigianino, and recognize his style converted and cheapened for use by a lesser man with a lesser vision.

Francken's pleasing idiom of diluted mannerism and sympathy with liberal culture were sufficient to catch van Dyck's attention. He echoed his portrait for inclusion in his

to the style the father created; it is, perhaps, also, an over-generous tribute to a family that had for so long played a modest, but often attractive part in Antwerp's history of painting.

**Gregory Martin**  
*The author is a director of Christies*

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## THE CYCLE OF DISCIPLINE

A number of different influences on Britain made the Victorian age an era of strict discipline in national, social and personal life. Some of the influences were economic, with the need for personal saving in the early stages of individual capitalism giving great advantages to thrift and with a large number of strong-minded individual factory owners and other businessmen leading the industrial revolution. Other influences were religious, with the great strength of English nonconformity and of the evangelical wing of the Church of England. The evangelical diaries and memoirs indeed show an agonizing tension of individual conscience. Other influences were imperial. Only highly disciplined people could have organized so vast an empire with so few men. The Victorian educational institutions were designed to operate with the discipline which Victorian life required; so were the Victorian penal institutions.

### Attitudes reversed

Most of these influences have declined or been reversed: where the Victorian age was an age of puritanical religion our age is one of permissive agnosticism; where Victorian capitalism was individualistic, ours is bureaucratic. Where Victorian imperialism required cadres of highly disciplined men, our age has seen the independence of the British empire. In addition, the main twentieth-century movements of intellectual fashion, even including Marxism, have been either libertarian or demoralizing. Demoralizing may sound too strong a word, but it is surely an accurate word to describe those different philosophies, and Marxism itself has to be included, whose view of man is mechanistic, and which therefore regard man as less than human and less than responsible. These changes, as well as the natural reaction from the over-tension of Victorian discipline, have resulted in Britain as in some other countries, in a reversal of the older attitude towards social and personal discipline. Such reversals have happened before in human history and are indeed a normal part of the cycle of human attitudes. This is the process that we see in the history of the Old Testament, where the people of Israel recurrently adopt strict social discipline as a defence against their enemies and then when times are easier fall away from that discipline, causing indignation of the prophets and disaster to themselves.

There is no doubt that the climatic extremes both of discipline and of indiscipline are themselves unstable. The British, at any rate, have never been able to remain puritan for very long; at the time of the Commonwealth they found that a couple of decades of puritanism was about

as much as they could stand. The Victorian discipline lasted at its greatest intensity for perhaps thirty or forty years, but the reaction was already under way before the death of the Queen. The "naughty nineties" were a reaction against discipline, just as were the 1920s years after the Restoration.

Equally, however, an undisciplined society is unstable, not because people cannot tolerate being undisciplined, though there is undoubtedly something in human nature which abhors anarchy both in individual and in social life. An undisciplined nation comes to be exposed to internal or external predators. An undisciplined nation ceases to have the capacity to compete effectively in the world; where that has involved military competition, such nations have been at the mercy of their militarily more efficient neighbours. The Norman Conquest itself was an enforcement of discipline by external predators.

Equally, an undisciplined nation ceases to enjoy civil peace at home. It is not only that there are more criminals or that the conduct of criminals is more outrageous, though that is bound to happen. Each section of society becomes more insistent on claiming its own rights and feels itself to be more threatened by the rival claims of other sections. Indiscipline tends towards a general social disintegration. What you might expect in an undisciplined country would be that there would be many strikes; the miners might go on strike and let the people freeze, and then the doctors might go on strike and let the people suffer; there would be murder in the streets and the outer parts of the nation would begin to break away and insist upon their independence. That is the sort of thing that might happen in an undisciplined nation, and in such a nation governments might alternate between querulous obstinacy and implacable feebleness.

Yet the cycle of discipline, which is based on social needs and on the psychological depth of human experience, does not only move one way. There is now manifestly a demand for a general return to discipline in society. People have come to believe that the permissive society—that Mr Roy Jenkins has called the civilized society—depends for its fragile stability on spending the capital of the discipline of the past. Of course if you have a people who have been trained by an earlier discipline in self reliance, self control and a basically loyal attitude towards the laws and state under which they live, then that can be ruled on a very tight rein, and they will still respond. But if that society fails to condition later generations to

the same standards of self discipline and respect for law, then the civilized society itself is mortally threatened.

One way in which this demand for discipline is appearing is in the widening belief that there is inadequate discipline through the greater part of our educational system. Hooliganism, theft, violence to other pupils, violence to teachers—as well as illiteracy and academic failures—are reported from our secondary school system and are associated particularly with the large inner-city comprehensive schools. The student revolt at universities is past its peak, and that is because students themselves are coming to react against the minority of unprincipled toughs who almost destroyed some universities.

### Public reaction

The demand for discipline is also coming in penal matters. Whether the murder of Mr Ross McWhirter is the crime which makes it impossible for the government to hold out against the demand for restoration of capital punishment nobody can say, but the trend of opinion is manifest for everybody to see. These always has been a popular majority in favour of the restoration of capital punishment, particularly for murders committed as acts of terrorism. That majority is now being reinforced by many people who were convinced abolitionists and would have liked to remain so. They have come to believe that terrorism is a type of war in which death cannot be a deterrent available only to one side.

We are probably now past the point at which the danger of anarchy was greatest, though the social and human forces which have been unleashed still have great momentum and may well carry further the disintegration which indiscipline necessarily portends. Yet they are already beginning to create the strong public reaction which must precede any general restoration of discipline in our society.

Two things, however, are needed. The first is that we should not repeat, supposing we had it in our power, the Victorian mistake and turn from too lax a discipline to one that is too tight, and therefore becomes neurotic. We need to aim for a society that is as well as strong, and relaxed as well as firm. We need to avoid the hysterical stringencies of adolescence and achieve the quiet self-discipline of maturity. The second and greater requirement is that discipline has to be restored round a common faith; the only faith that is sufficiently strongly and widely held in our society is the faith in the rule of democracy and the rule of law. That is what the great majority of British people know that they believe in. That is the deep British tradition.

expect its citizens to cherish that which it neglects. Four fish-farmers, PAUL MUNRO WALKER, 16 Queen's Park West Drive, Bournemouth, November 25.

### Limits of fish catches

From Mr Hugh Elliot  
Sir, The Anglo-Icelandic dispute over fishing rights reminds me of the occasion when I visited Alaska and was informed that the annual catch of salmon had been reduced by a factor of ten, over a four-year period, from 40 million tons in 1970 to 4 million tons in 1974. The apparent cause was intense overfishing by huge fleets of Soviet and Japanese long range trawlers.

This present dispute is not over whether it is morally or politically right for the Icelandic government to extend their territorial waters to 200 miles nor is it a dispute over the morality of British proposals to be content with 40 per cent of the overall catch. It is again a clear indication that Man, in his blindness, has over-reached irreplaceable natural resources to the point where Nature can no longer cope. Until Man is able to see that self-restraint and sacrifice are prerequisites to solving most of the world's menacing problems there is little point arguing the pros and cons of occasionally going without fish and chips.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH ELLIOT,  
35 Sinclair Road,  
West Kensington, W14.

### Scott's Last Expedition

From Miss Ann Savours  
Sir, In answer to Mrs Scarborough's question, in her tribute to Sir Charles Wright in your obituary column on November 15, there is a belief at least one survivor of the British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910-13 (Scott's Last Expedition). He is Trygve Gran, the "ski expert", born in 1889 and introduced to Scott by Fridtjof Nansen in March, 1910. He, too, was one of the search party in November, 1912. He now lives in retirement in Norway, but visited this country last year to give moving lectures on the expedition at the Royal Geographical Society, the Scott Polar Research Institute and Eton College. Those who met him were amazed at his vigour and

Yours truly,  
ANN SAVOURS,  
Little Bridge Place,  
Mill Lane,  
Canterbury,  
Kent.

## Replacing listed buildings

From Mr Peter Chamberlin and others

Sir, The Secretary of State for the Environment has arbitrarily refused to allow the Royal College of Art to demolish 197-200 Queen's Gate on the grounds that as they have dignity and character the quality of the proposed replacement is "not material".

The weight of evidence at the hearing of this appeal, including the opinion of the highly qualified inspector, suggested that the quality of the proposed replacement displayed a greater environmental sensibility and beauty than those which exist. In his report the inspector says: "The listed buildings are not Grade 1—like Carlton House Terrace or the Nash terraces of Regent's Park—they do not form a planned architectural composition. In spite of their dignity they are not of sufficiently high quality to stand in the way of a first class modern building. To reject the new design would portray a sad lack of confidence in our current cultural standards."

If this is the established policy of the Minister then there will be little chance for our society to produce any worth while buildings either for our own enjoyment or for posterity. In urban areas any new building must inevitably involve demolition of existing ones. Our predecessors, whether they were Victorian, Georgian or Medieval had sufficient confidence in themselves to demolish where they wanted something new and it is to this we owe the richness and diversity of our towns. If Mr Croxall's policy had been applied in the past there would have been no Banqueting Hall in Whitehall of all places.

But his decision raises another question—is a minister to make mandatory value judgements and to override the opinions of bodies such as the Royal Fine Art Commission? A minister's function is presumably a political one—to interpret the policy of his party in those matters for which he is responsible. Are we to understand that the Labour party has decided they prefer to maintain old buildings without regard for present excellence?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CHAMBERLIN,  
PHILIP DOWSON,  
NORMAN FOSTER,  
STEPHEN GARDNER,  
FREDERICK GIBBERD,  
ERNO GOLDFINGER,  
DENYS LASDUN,  
PHILIP POWELL,  
RICHARD SHEPPARD,  
71 Leinster Way,  
Camden Town, N.W.1,  
November 26.

A pleasing development  
From Father A. T. Phyll  
Sir, Now that the wrappings are taken off the new buildings on the south side of Victoria Street we can see them revealed, there must be many who, like me, wish to record their pleasure at the sight. We hear a good deal, and with reason, of the displeasing development which has afflicted our city in recent years. Now we have a range of buildings both completely modern and very beautiful. They also fit very well into the street.

The complete difference in styles avoids any comparison or rivalry with Westminster Cathedral, while the noble portico of the City Hall opposite. I shall gain an extra sparkle every time I walk down Victoria Street and rejoice that the coming generations will be able to "cherish their once mine".

All who contribute to the making of these splendid buildings deserve our greatest gratitude. The designer deserves a knighthood. Yours etc,  
A. T. PHILL,  
13 Exmouth Mansions,  
Maida Vale, W.9,  
November 18.

Self-sacrifice  
From Mr Brian W. Walker  
Sir, There has been an important, and I would argue essential, element missing from the debate stimulated by the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent plea to the nation, and the Bishop of Southwark missed it in his own public reaction. Even the Rev Daniel Jenkins in a new book on the British idealist movement comments that the energy and dedication experienced during the war seems to have disappeared.

But the weight of evidence passing across my desk suggests that the undercurrent of self-sacrifice which masquerades as our "national life" we experience deep wells of generosity, sacrifice, compassion and a profoundly healthy questioning of the very superficiality which seems to permeate Church leaders and politicians. It is a common experience shared by my colleagues in other charitable agencies.

Every week in this country hundreds of thousands of citizens work sacrificially for other people in need at home and abroad. Tens of thousands of our own citizens have not only kept pace with the blight of inflation but have exceeded it on their own volition. Well over 10,000 unpaid women work in our shops up and down the country every week, manifesting a rich variety of social concern in action. And we are only one agency.

It is not only fringe people who are thinking about and putting into practice a simpler lifestyle which cares for people and resources. It is happening throughout the nation and across all classes of people. If archbishops and politicians would focus on these qualities they would help to lay bare the bedrock on which a new society can be built.

If we play up to the best in ordinary life instead of down to the worst, this nation can make a further major contribution to Western civilization. All the elements are there. They simply need fusing together.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN W. WALKER, Director,  
Oxfam,  
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,  
November 25.

## Discrimination against women

From Ms Katherine Gieve and others

Sir, We were disturbed to read Mr Justice Caulfield's judgment in *The Times* Law Report on November 21, 1975, in which he said: "Even in present times, when there was a movement by women for equality with men, a sensible wife, certainly in a united family, did not generally make the major decisions. Most wives sensibly left such decisions to their husbands. A solicitor should not take instructions from a wife when a husband was also available."

A firm of solicitors was found to be negligent in the discharge of its duty of care not only because of the content of the advice given, but also because the instructions were accepted from the wife rather than the husband.

The judge makes it clear that the negligence did not lie in consulting only one of two clients, but in consulting the woman rather than the man.

Surely such a ruling goes directly in the face of the Sex Discrimination Act, and if the judgment is to form a precedent it will create considerable legal problems. But more importantly it will create serious practical problems for wives seeking to obtain legal services.

Above all, what confidence can we have in the Sex Discrimination Act if those who are to adjudicate do not yet recognize women either as equal partners in marriage or as responsible citizens?

Yours faithfully,  
KATHERINE GIEVE,  
ALEXANDRA HERON,  
HELEN THORNTON,  
Women's Liberation Campaign for Legal and Financial Independence,  
7 Killis Avenue, SW2,  
November 25.

From Dr Roy Hall

Sir, Mr Herbert (letters, November 26) wants a doctor of his own sex at his side when ill but would deny women students of his policy of encouraging girl pupils from a career in medicine since the entry procedures are weighted against them. That, surely, is what the anti-sex discrimination legislation is all about?

Yours faithfully,  
RAY HALL,  
8 Chigwell, Essex,  
November 26.

From Mr Miles Duncan

Sir, In support of his argument encouraging the use of the law in encouraging us to rethink the role of women in society Mr Ronald Butts shows his mind to be the warehouse of much prejudiced thought on the matter.

The object of the Commission is surely not to brainwash society but to correct the effect of the continual brainwashing to which society and Mr Butts have been subject for so long. The effect of same being

From Miss Janet E. Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake

Sir, I have now had the opportunity of studying both press and independent views on the Expenditure Committee's report on the Charity Commissioners. As so often happens, criticism and comment tended to centre on one or two points, omitting other sections of the report to which the Committee itself had given considerable attention, and to which it attached considerable importance.

I was particularly interested in the reaction to our attempt to give a statutory definition to charity as "a body engaged in purposes beneficial to the community." This of course is at present one of four main criteria used by the Courts in settling difficult cases. There has been criticism of this suggestion from various quarters, including the leader column of *The Times* itself. The Expenditure Committee is the first to recognize that it is not an ideal solution, but I suspect strongly that there is no ideal solution and it is therefore a question of plumping for the second best. It remains my strong personal contention that this is a better solution than the continuation of what the leader itself describes as "the benevolent muddle of the charitable world."

I should also like to correct one misconception which appears to be current about the definition in relation to education. Some commentators have stated that public schools under our proposals would be excluded from charitable status and indeed this was the concern of one of the contributors to your correspondence columns, Mr R. M. Batten, the Headmaster of King's College, Taunton.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET E. FOOKES,  
Chairman of Education, Arts and Home Office Sub-Committee of the Expenditure Committee,  
House of Commons,  
November 7.

Doctors' dispute

From Professor Barry Supple

Sir, Now that it is the hospital doctors who are taking industrial action, which has very serious political implications, where are the erstwhile critics of the coal miners? When the miners broke Mr Heath's incomes policy in the winter of 1973-74, they were widely (and rightly) accused of holding the country to ransom, of acting in an utterly irresponsible way, and of directly challenging parliamentary authority.

Those of us who held such views then, ought to be at least equally vehement now, not merely about the ethical responsibilities of doctors (which is a separate matter) but about their attempt to use their sectional power to undermine governmental authority and threaten democratic decision-making. Unless opponents of extremism are prepared to be heard whatever the social background of the wreckers or the political affiliation of the government, they will be taken for hypocrites—and rightly so.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY SUPPLE,  
The University of Sussex.

From Sir Francis Avery Jones

Sir, Contrary to general impression, the hospital service in recent years has expanded and improved at a

somewhat obvious from his assumption that this employer mentioned in his article: as having to choose what would give a better employment-bargain is a "he".

The abolition of slavery was a piece of social engineering originally promoted by a minority group. If indeed the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission, inadequate though it may be, is promoted by only a minority group, I consider it to be no less of a good thing if it succeeds in reducing the prejudice in our society that so limits the potential contribution of women.

Mr Butts says that the country is in a dreadful mess—the country is largely run by men. Yours faithfully,  
MILES DUNCAN,  
Essex House,  
12-13 Essex Street, WC2,  
November 23.

### Unrecognized husbands

From Dame Unity Lister

Sir, May I say how much I agree with Ronald Butts' criticism of the fact that husbands of life peers, baronesses and dames are unrecognized. No matter how insignificant a knight may be she automatically shares her husband's title.

For a married woman to achieve anything outside her home and have the opportunity to play a part in civic or public life she must not also owe her husband the peripatetic interests and sometimes to put up with any ensuing domestic discomfort. It is virtues even in a man's world are totally disregarded.

Yours sincerely,  
UNITY LISTER,  
32 The Court Yard,  
Eltham, SE8,  
November 25.

From Mrs Adam Woolfit

Sir, These checks for the headmaster of Lifford High School (letters, November 26) and down with equality. I know which side my bread is buttered.

I have free use of my husband's cheque book and no concern with income tax and VAT. I live rent and rare free in a beautiful home with a beautiful husband who helps with washing up and nappies.

In return I make, wash and iron his clothes, cook his meals and care for our children and home. It seems little enough.

Equality would give him parity in my kitchen, force me into the 9-5 rat race and deprive me of the courteous, masculine care I accept as my ten shilling right.

No thank you!  
Yours faithfully,  
PENELOPE WOOLFIT,  
28 Winstcombe Street,  
Highgate, N19,  
November 27.

May I make it crystal clear that

nowhere in the report does it state that independent schools in general or public schools in particular should be denied charitable status. It is true that the Committee expects that the test "would admit to charitable status those institutions which manifestly devote the education they provide towards meeting a range of clear educational needs throughout the whole community."

It was, however, certainly the view of Conservative members of the Committee that the vast majority of schools in the independent sector would be found on close examination to stand up to the new definition. If they thought otherwise I doubt if they would have agreed to the wording of the report. The report went further and suggested that schools set up by a firm for the benefit of the children of its employees should be granted charitable status, contrary to a decision of the House of Lords in 1927 at such a school could not qualify.

Finally, may I point out that the report of the Expenditure Committee has been sent to the Home Office, who will in due course make their own observations public? If any person or organization feels that it would either like to support or object to the conclusions of the Committee in relation to the law on charities, now is the time to make their views known to the Home Office.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET E. FOOKES,  
Chairman of Education, Arts and Home Office Sub-Committee of the Expenditure Committee,  
House of Commons,  
November 7.

quite remarkable rate. Progress was rapid to a large extent because morale was so high, and working hours in the NHS were an exhilarating and very satisfying experience. Now, progress has virtually come to a standstill, morale is rock bottom and clock watchers abound.

The introduction first of reorganization and then political dogmatism has had a disastrous effect, causing instability and divisive tensions, aggravated by the problems of rapid inflation. The best contribution towards restoring morale would be to take the NHS out of the party political arena. Could not the occasional major policy be decided by a free vote in the House of Commons?

Our National Health Service should be national in fact as well as in name. Medical services particularly cannot be developed on a party basis. In the earlier years of the NHS, hospitals had a 2 per cent increased purchasing power each year, and slow but steady progress was made.

Could there not be an all-party agreement to stabilize our growth at some such rate? A transference of a commonsense and British compromise would soon enable us once again to safeguard our most important capital asset—Health.

Yours faithfully,  
F. AVERY JONES,  
149 Harley Street, W.1,  
November 26.

## Accountability of MPs

From Mr C. Bernard Kissen

Sir, I have seen your leader in *The Times* (November 27) under the heading "A Licence to Conspire". I would take issue with you on your statement that Labour candidates will not be eager to come forward if they see that conspiracies by extreme leftists can deprive even members of the present Cabinet of their seats.

I would assure you in my capacity as chairman of the official Labour candidates body, Labour Parliamentary Association, that my executive have every full touch with the feelings of Labour candidates and potential ones on the issue of Reg Prentice's fight to retain his seat, and that from soundings taken by me recently on this subject support for Prentice in the minority. My executive deprecate any statement made in your columns without foundation on this point. Our executive consider that the NEC are correct and proper in rejecting Prentice's appeal as the Labour Party rules had not been broken. Our candidates are eager to fight elections and to fight on socialist lines in comparison with the positionist policies of Prentice and his so-called moderates.

It is the fundamental democratic right of every group including the properly constituted NE Newham Constituency Labour Party EC and ASIC to choose its own representatives. Truly,  
C. BERNARD KISSEN, Chairman,  
Labour Parliamentary Association,  
71a Cricklewood Broadway, NW2.

### Airport bird dangers

From Mr G. A. Champness

Sir, Your correspondent Dr Bourne (November 25) asks "whether the authorities propose to take a wider range of ornithological advice on how to handle" the problem of bird strikes at airports. The British Airports Authority fully appreciates the importance of dispersing birds and reducing the attraction of airports as sites for feeding and roosting. I would assure you we readily seek advice from ornithologists.

Our discussions with ornithologists from the Ministry of Agriculture's pest infestation control laboratory ensure that we take whatever new measures might be advised to reduce the risk of standard practices of playing bird distress calls and using firecrackers during regular patrols to clear the birds from the airfield.

For instance, earlier this year, following the mild winter, the ministry's ornithologists recommended that we should throughout the summer infestations of crane fly larvae, thus providing an ample food supply for birds. On their advice we sprayed the grass areas at Heathrow with insecticide to keep these insects under control.

Over the five years the average number of bird strikes at Heathrow and Gatwick airports has been 1.5 and 0.65 per 10,000 movements respectively. Nevertheless, recognizing the importance of the subject, we always seek and accept advice from ornithological experts in order to minimize this risk. Yours faithfully,  
G. A. CHAMPNESS, Inspector of Airside Safety & Operations,  
British Airports Authority,  
2 Buckingham Gate, SW1.

### Rostropovich in Paris

From Mr Horace Judson

Sir, Your opera correspondent from San Francisco, this morning (November 19), is mistaken. The first and second operas that the Rostropovich conducted outside of the Soviet Union were performed in Paris in 1970. He conducted *Eugene Onegin* and *Pique Dame*, performed by the Bolshoi Opera, with Vishnevskaya, at the Paris Opera; in memory services, some at least of the instrumentalists were French. I attended performances of both, and stopped by at a studio session one morning when they were recording the production of *Eugene Onegin*. Vishnevskaya—and here was I served by the most beautiful and splendid voice, translucent amber. Later that week I had lunch with them, and we talked about his reasons for taking up conducting—where he thought his wife was the instrumentalist, which was French. I attended performances of both, and stopped by at a studio session one morning when they were recording the production of *Eugene Onegin*. Vishnevskaya—and here was I served by the most beautiful and splendid voice, translucent amber.

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Yours truly,  
HORACE JUDSON,  
34 High Street,  
Orwell, Cambridgeshire.

### Granchester Meadows

From Mr Peter Bazalgette

Sir, I was horrified by the letter of my good friend James Owen (November 27). He argues that to reduce the volume of traffic along The Backs a new road should be carved through Granchester Meadows. While not totally removing the problem from The Backs it would, as your previous correspondent wrote, ruin an entirely new area. The obvious parallel is to the successful preservation of Christ Church Meadow, in another place.

I lived on the fringe of Granchester Meadows last year and I know how popular they are both for amorous undergraduates and sundy walkers off their considerable Sunday lunches. Furthermore, the Queen's Road skirts The Backs but the western relief road would bisect this recreational paradise used by old and young alike.

It has been suggested in Cambridge that an area laid out by Capability Brown should take precedence over one of outstanding natural beauty. The fact is that both should be zealously protected. I am sorry to see James Owen present the matter as one of alternative.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER BAZALGETTE,  
President, Union Society,  
Cambridge.

### Church colleges

From the Reverend C. Buckmaster  
Sir, I was very sad, having read Bishop Howe's warning to General Wood that the Anglican Church use change its "middle class" use, to be present two days later when Synod reinforced that image the next day, by approving the closure of the two Church colleges of Education in London and Birmingham. These two colleges, Saints, Tottenham, and St. Mark's, Salebury, are those most concerned with the "non-middle-class" aspects of our society. I do not think it is an overstatement to say that the decision to close them is a disaster to the Church of England. The Church of England is a church who have a knowledge in expertise in the problems of ideas that is probably unique.

pious hope that the Church continue to train teachers for its in London and Birmingham a series of short courses run bases in Plymouth and Culshaws how far the spokesmen of Board of Education are out with the realities of the on.

decision, a disastrous one e schools in our grim, inner-areas, probably marks the end of the end of the real ship between Church and in education, for the next of the falling birth-rate must Church schools.

is a sad fact that Bishop s warning—like so many lie voices before—fell on very ears.

Yours faithfully,  
LES BUCKMASTER,  
St. Peter's College,  
1 of England College of  
don,

gham.

### Archaeological loot

Mr Paul Munro Walker  
Our editorial on the looting of British archaeological sites (November 25), though valuable, is piteous, and I should be grateful would permit me, as a dealer in antiquities, to enlarge on it. In time to time, there are it to me coins and antiquities have been unofficially ted from local sites, known down. In every instance, I age the finder to have the recorded in detail at the riate local museum, or at the Museum. If the finder is d to sell, by no means always, I carry out the same pro- myself, and I have no reason

to believe that this is not also done by my colleagues in the London trade, and indeed I know of many occasions when they have done so. At least some of the archaeological value of the objects is thus preserved.

The use of metal detectors by enlightened searchers can be useful. I would instance a Roman villa site near London, very inadequately studied before a motorway was driven through part of it, the spoils from which have provided a rich harvest of coins and small metalware, as well as pottery, to an amateur investigator who has carefully recorded his finds. With- out work, a great deal of important material would be in the absence of sufficiently financed professional excavation—a perennial lack in philistine England—have ended as infill on construction projects.

Nevertheless, I am not persuaded that most illicit diggers are not driven solely by greed; certainly the financial rewards resulting from the use of metal detectors are strongly stressed in all the promotional literature. Yet there is, I believe, a case for licensing the possession of metal detectors by those responsible persons who can show that they will employ them to a proper end, the supplementing of controlled archaeological investigation where the state or local authorities will not sufficiently support the latter, imperfect recording being better than none at all. As for those who ruin sites merely for profit, their activities should be made to cease at once.

Despite your reasonable strictures on the weaknesses of the law of Treasure Trove, the English system still seems remarkably good in comparison with those of almost all other countries which enclose the principal states of the ancient world. Of course it would be wise to extend it to cover all archaeological discoveries; but let it remain based on the principle of a reward to the finder related to market value. Elsewhere treasure recovered from the ground is immediately seized to the state, without compensation, as soon as its existence is officially known, a practice that ensures that in much of Europe and the Near East as little as possible of valuable excavated material is brought to the attention of the authorities; rather, it is instantly dispersed on the international market, all its archaeological interest lost.

In archaeology as in other matters, patriotism is not enough. The modern state must show that it cares enough for the national patrimony to allocate funds to scientific excavation much more enthusiastically than it does at present, and to pay for fortuitously discovered material when it appears. It cannot otherwise















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الأصل

Personal investment and finance, pages 20 and 21

### Banks expected to hold rates despite a further cut in MLR

Tim Congdon, chief executive of the Bank of England, yesterday said that the bank was unlikely to cut its minimum lending rate, which is now 11½ per cent, in response to a further cut in the Treasury's MLR.

The MLR was cut from 11½ to 11 per cent on Friday, the first of a series of cuts. The Treasury's MLR was cut from 11½ to 11 per cent on Friday, the first of a series of cuts. The Treasury's MLR was cut from 11½ to 11 per cent on Friday, the first of a series of cuts.

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### Japanese go to top of British car imports table

By Our Industrial Editor

Japan's booming car manufacturers have taken the top of the British car imports table in the first 10 months of this year, a rise of 34,106 on the corresponding period of 1974.

Customs and Excise returns, issued yesterday, put the import value at nearly £94m. The number of units imported exceeded even those from France, making Japan the top importer into Britain.

### Chrysler UK looks set for rundown

By Maurice Corina  
Industrial Editor

Unless the present divided Cabinet resolves to mount a temporary rescue operation under the Industry Act, a phased short-term financial support to buy more time for considering the Chrysler problem or injecting a huge sum in new model development.

The last two options are more or less interdependent. Even rationalization of plants to limit the costs of Government aid is difficult, given the structure of Chrysler UK's facilities in the Midlands and Scotland.

If a phased run-down takes place, and first the Chrysler Corporation would have to renege past undertakings to previous governments as well as this administration, the Government is likely to consult British Leyland to see whether some assistance can be given in finding alternative use for engineering facilities.

It is not necessarily a wild suggestion that British Leyland may be interested in using Linwood for lorry and bus manufacturing operations, though there are bound to be redundancies and time-lags on top of anxieties about the cost penalty involved in component supplies.

The main Chrysler assembly plant, at Ryton, in the Midlands, shut down yesterday for the whole of December, with the management making no commitment to British Leyland or Ford, and his expectation was that European manufacturers would gain.

The present dealer network, he pointed out, was geared for Chrysler UK having a 13.5 per cent market, though it had only a 6.4 per cent share last month and was down this month. He said it made no sense to keep just Linwood going, as some had suggested, because car manufacture needed high volumes.

While pessimistic about Chrysler UK's future as a car maker, he thought there could be a sound future for its Dodge and Commer truck operations at Dunstable.

Chrysler UK's management was still putting on a brave face yesterday amid all the gloom. Linwood has been told it will reopen some time in January after the mid-December break and the Stoke engine plant, vital to export work, is to restart on January 12. But a spokesman, asked about Mr Ricardo's intentions, could only say: "We just do not know his plans."

Mr William Dewing, national chairman of the Chrysler Dealers Association, said yesterday he considered there was no chance of Chrysler UK continuing at its present size and many of the company's 830 dealers, employing 30,000 workers, would switch to the sale of foreign cars.

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### Hongkong police in London over Haw Par

Senior officers of Hongkong's police commercial crimes office were due to arrive in Britain yesterday to continue their inquiries into the affairs of Haw Par, Spyder Securities and Far East interests connected with the Slater, Walker Securities group.

Hongkong officials said Senior Superintendent Peter Wassell, head of the commercial crimes division, and Chief Inspector Paul Bailey were expected to stay for about two weeks.

They were originally expected to arrive some weeks ago after arrangements were made through the Slater, Walker group before Mr Jim Slater's resignation from them to interview the former director of Haw Par, including Mr Slater himself.

Spyder Securities was an investment dealing company in which former Haw Par directors were beneficiaries and which was incorporated in Hongkong. The local police started their investigations into its affairs after accusations by the Singapore Finance Minister.

Construction of further government-built factories which, when completed, should provide jobs for an estimated 3,500 workers in the assisted areas of England were announced yesterday.

The programme, to be undertaken by the English Industrial Estates Corporation, will involve factories in the north, north-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, south-west and the East Midlands.

Iranian gas for Europe

A deal involving 13,000 million cubic metres of Iranian natural gas for the Soviet Union will be signed in Teheran at the weekend. Most of it will be exported to West Germany by a pipeline crossing Czechoslovakia.

Texaco defers price increase

Texaco has received Price Commission clearance to increase the price of its oil and petrol. Like Mobil, it has decided to defer passing on the increases to customers until the market leaders, Shell and Esso, announce how they plan to distribute the price rise.

Belgian freeze on dividends

Brussels, Nov 28.—Belgium has completed its anti-recession plan, including a temporary freeze on dividends and rents and a partial freeze on salaries.

Share prices down again

Share prices fell further yesterday bringing the loss in market indices over the week to about 5 per cent. Prices steadied after a cut in the Bank's minimum lending rate. The FT index was 3 points down on the day at 357.3.

### Both sides at Cowley silent over moves to reach the output target

By R. W. Shakespeare

Senior management officials from British Leyland's much troubled Cowley, Oxford, opened fresh negotiations with union officials yesterday.

They are aimed at resolving long-standing problems over grading and working arrangements that have led to warnings of a possible shutdown of some operations unless output levels are improved.

After several hours of discussions between the two sides, a management spokesman said last night that it had been agreed to meet on Monday to discuss the proposals.

It seems obvious that the negotiations may extend over some days or even weeks and that the management will be trying to get agreement with the unions on restructuring the grading system and working procedures.

Mr Desmond North, the Cowley plant director, last weekend circulated a letter warning the workers that low output figures had resulted in some assembly operations running at significantly unprofitable levels. He said that unless target figures were achieved these lines would be shut down and workers sent home.

This warning closely followed an abrasive statement by Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, who said that unofficial strikes in the Leyland car plants must stop and a substantial improvement in productivity achieved to justify the planned investment in the company.

These moves brought a quick response from shop floor leaders and the unions although they did not prevent one more unofficial walk-out and another threatened strike by Cowley workers this week.

However, the management appears to have been satisfied that output levels during this week have been high enough to avoid carrying out the threat to send workers home.

Last night the company spokesman was coy about revealing output figures. He said: "We are not anxious to get involved in a numbers game at this stage, except to say that during this week there has been an improvement."

While it seems obvious that target production figures are not yet being reached at Cowley, the management is clearly not ready to press matters too hard while negotiations with the unions are going on.

Certainly the plant has lost some production, including Maxi car output, because of the walk-out on Thursday by 120 men in the body pressing shop over a manning dispute. This led to 500 other workers being sent home. Yesterday these strikers went back to work pending further negotiations.

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Talking shop

## A luxury line in Christmas food hand-outs

Food might seem to be one of the most appropriate of gifts this Christmas because of shrunken household budgets. But the traditional Christmas hamper is a far cry from the sort of food parcels one normally associates with recession conditions.

A Harrods or Fortnum's Mason version of a Christmas hamper containing such luxury items as caviar and champagne may not be an ideal present to an old age pensioner on the breadline. Nevertheless, the description of the hampers and their contents makes glamorous reading.

The Fortnum's "Luxury" list starts with one hand-cut crystal decanter containing finest malt whisky, and ends with a tin of F & M petit fours maison. The Harrods "Supreme" list starts with a half-gallon of Teacher's whisky, and ends with a large box Harrods plant fruits. It seems almost unbelievable, in present hard economic times, that people will pay £275 for an assortment of groceries, however exotic, at prices averaging between £1 and £13 an item.

But both Harrods and Fortnum's, who stock hampers at this price say that they do sell in fairly large numbers.

Fortnum's, as a matter of policy, would not say how many of their top price hampers are sold. Harrods were a little



Fortnum and Mason's £275 luxury hamper display, with Mr Derek Hobbs who manages the store's grocery department, including the hampers.

more specific and said that they normally sell some dozens of the Supreme hampers (also priced at £275) each Christmas.

Harrods also said that deliveries of their "very substantial" trade in Christmas hampers were almost exclusively to

British buyers because of the technical difficulties of export food and drink products abroad. But Fortnum's said their customers came from all over the world.

At one time the luxury grade hampers were used as, for instance, thank-you presents

from country house guests to their hosts. But today, the majority of buyers are said to be companies who give them to directors or favoured customers.

The "mass" market for luxury hampers has moved further down the price scale which with Fortnum's starts at

the bottom end at £12 with a shopping basket omitting the more sophisticated goodies like caviar or Soltion and containing mainly staples.

Harrods price range starts at £10 for their "Singleton" gift box which, as its name rather coyly suggests, is intended for people living on their own or with smaller appetites. It contains for example half a bottle of sherry and half a bottle of wine (usually Mateus Rosé) and at around 65p per item seems to offer fairly sound value for money.

But both stores say there are plenty of buyers in the £50 to £100 brackets. Harrods, in fact, do not use trolley baskets for "hampers" costing less than £50, the less costly versions coming, rather disappointingly, in stout cardboard boxes.

Consciousness cannot really be a serious factor when discussing such items as caviar which costs between £3 and £4 an oz (the Fortnum's luxury hamper contains a 16oz jar) or cigars at about £2 a box. In

many instances on containers such as the hand-cut crystal decanter itself worth perhaps £30, which contains Fortnum's whisky or, in the case of the Harrods Supreme hamper (packed entirely in a wooden military style chest), items such as an electric coffee grinder, all add to the value.

But for those who take an interest, however academic, in

such matters at this level, both Harrods and Fortnum's pay scrupulous attention to costs. Fortnum's say that in virtually all instances no extra charge is made for the hamper. The only additional cost (apart from cartage) is for special presentation.

Harrods say they do make a small additional charge for their gift boxes, but this is kept as low as possible. Both companies undertake that if any changes have to be made to the advertised contents the replacement will be of equal or greater value.

Not all grocery outlets have such an enviable reputation to maintain as these two famous department stores. The trade of elaborate presentation hampers being used to deliberately "blur" the price of the merchandise; or less obviously, being used to clear out old stock.

Trustworthy retailer is of prime importance in buying hampers, particularly where they are sent direct from the store to the recipient. It is then very difficult for the donor to check up on the quality and price of his gift and it may be monkeys (if at all) that any discrepancies are uncovered.

There are, nevertheless, plenty of reliable alternatives to Harrods and Fortnum's for

those whose purses cannot stretch to luxury standards and who nevertheless want to send Christmas hampers. Selfridges, for example, have a range of gift boxes at prices ranging from £4.75 (average price of individual items is 43p) up to £21 (average price 95p).

As far as extra charges are concerned, Selfridges say their goods are packed by a different firm who make a charge of approximately 70p for the hamper additional to the cost of the contents.

People who live a long distance from a suitable store might care to consider a mail order food hamper. For instance, the Grattan's mail order catalogue has hampers ranging from £16.91 (38 items with an average price of 44p), including more mundane products such as cheese spread and tea bags, to £32.53.

The more practical selection of contents offered by the mail order houses have plenty of attractions to the less well-to-do. Other advantages of mail order are the built-in credit terms which offer up to 100 weeks to pay and the inclusion of carriage in the price. But higher postage and transport rates mean that delivery can add significantly to the cost.

Patricia Tisdall

Capital transfer tax: readers ask

## Points to note about exemptions

Letters from readers on the subject of capital transfer tax still flow in and I am answering as many of them as space provides in this end of the month round-up.

Concerning the £1,000 exemption a reader writes: "During March 1975 I made a gift of £1,000 to my daughter, and I intended that this should be the last of the current period. On March 26, 1975, in order to take advantage of the carry forward benefit from a previous year.

"Could you kindly confirm that the exemption facility would still be allowed in 1976 to make two gifts, each of £1,000 before April 5, 1976? It would be intended that £1,000 would relate to the year ending April 5 this year (that is, the carry forward from last year) and £1,000 for the current year ending April 5, 1976."

I am afraid that the intention of the donor is irrelevant. The rule is that the gift made in March, 1975, of £1,000 is treated as using up the exemption for the current year ending April 5, 1976. Only if another £1,000 had been paid by April 5, 1975, could advantage be taken of the unused allowance for the previous period. I think the rule is unduly harsh, bearing in mind that it only became law on March 13, 1975 (although retrospective) and gave little time for the man in

the street to take advantage of it. As the exemption for 1974/75 is deemed to have been covered by the March, 1975, payment only one £1,000 is eligible for relief in 1975/76.

An elderly reader tells me: "Two and a half years ago I gave my son nearly £8,000. If I die within seven years of the gift, leaving him nothing in my will and giving all to my wife, will estate duty (on a tapering relief) be payable on the gift to my son on my death, or on any subsequent sums I may give him, either within or outside the normally exempted categories, provided the total does not exceed £15,000?"

Where a gift has been made before March 26, 1974 (as in this case) and the donor dies within seven years, the amount of the gift that would have been liable under the old estate duty rules becomes part of his estate on death and is liable to capital transfer tax. However, if the remainder of the estate has been left to the surviving spouse no CTT will be payable. The reason is that the amount left to the surviving spouse is exempt and the son's gift of £8,000 is within the £15,000 taxable at a nil rate. The donor could make further gifts to his son during lifetime or on death to make up the total of £15,000 tax free. In addition, gifts which come within the normal exemptions

(for example the £1,000, £100 normal expenditure rules) can be made during his lifetime without attracting CTT.

Turning to the subject of leases a reader says: "It is appreciated that in a normal settlement the settlor is liable to CTT on creation of the settlement and that on reversion to the settlor on determination of the beneficiary's interest no further CTT is payable.

"I am, however, interested in the case of a life lease (which is a settlement for this purpose) granted prior to 1974. Can you say what would be the position for CTT on the death of the life tenant when the property would revert to the settlor? I should be grateful if you could give your view of the subject matter of such a settlement."

As this reader points out, normally no CTT is payable on a reversion of settled property to the settlor, but there are two exceptions. One of them relevant here is where the reversionary interest arises on the determination of a lease for life or lives.

Just to complete the picture the other case is where the interest has been acquired for a consideration in money or property worth. In both the circumstances CTT is paid on the reversion.

As to the subject matter of

the settlement, assuming the grant of the lease was entirely gratuitous the whole of the value of the property is apportioned to the lessee—the lessor's reversionary interest has no value for the purposes of CTT.

The final letter concerns interest-free loans. A reader tells me that she has lent £10,000 to her married daughter, interest-free, and would like to assist her daughter in repaying the loan by making an annual gift of £1,000 and thereby taking advantage of the exemption.

She adds: "My husband asked our accountants who said I cannot do so as already I am considered to be giving my daughter £1,000 a year by taking no interest on the loan. The solicitor, who is administering my father's estate, says he considers that the accountants are wrong and that if I choose to give an annual gift of £1,000 to a regular pattern of £1,000 a year to my daughter, he thinks it would be permissible."

Section 41 of the Finance Act 1975, which deals with free loans does not take effect until next April 6. From that date (if the terms of the section remain basically unchanged), the reader will be deemed to be making an annual gift during the period of the loan of the interest foregone. If the Inland Revenue take say

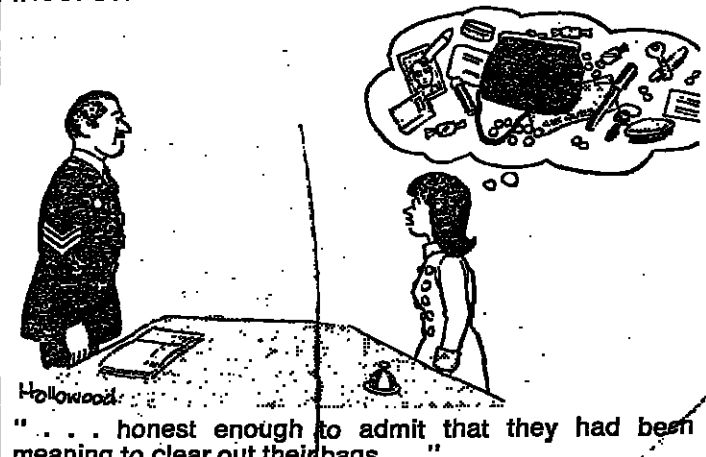
15 per cent as the market value then the annual gift will be £1,500.

The section says that the gift shall be treated as made out of the transferor's income. If the gift of the interest is to be exempt under the normal expenditure rule, then the donor must be left with sufficient income to maintain her usual standard of living. In making the loan of £10,000 this will presumably have reduced the donor's income because the moneys will formerly have been invested elsewhere. If, as a result, the donor's standard of living declines, the exemption will not apply.

Whether or not the normal expenditure rule applies, the £1,000 exemption is certainly available, and there are two points to bear in mind here. One is that each spouse can take advantage of it. The other is that if no gifts have been made as the simple case of a gift £2,000 before April 5, 1976, thereby taking advantage of the unused £1,000 exemption in the previous year. So if both husband and wife are eligible for this exemption the £4,000 could be used to reduce the loan to £6,000 at April 6, 1976, thereby reducing the value of the "deemed" gifts of interest foregone for 1976-77 onwards.

Vera Di Palma

Insurance



## What if your handbag is snatched?

The pre-Christmas season is when thieves are generally working overtime, and earning substantial tax-free bonuses. Let's take the simple case of the theft of a woman's handbag during a shopping expedition.

Some women may be honest enough to admit that they had been meaning to clear out their bags; and are reasonably happy to lose about half the contents. But the position is very different as the loss itself is concerned, and the remaining contents.

Probably, these will consist of money, cheque book, cheque guarantee card, credit card (as a Barclaycard or Access), keys for the house and, possibly, keys for the car, to say nothing of money.

To what extent will it be possible to make an insurance claim? Here, I must point out that, with so many different policies on the market, I cannot cater for every different word. Let's take the simple case of the theft of a woman's handbag during a shopping expedition.

Most policies covering household contents can be extended to give a "full risks" cover for money (in addition to the basic cover against theft, etc. if the money is in the house). The limit of cover is likely to be £100 or £200, and this protection may very well be available to members of the family living in the house.

Usually, to be able to claim for the loss of money under this type of extension, the police must be notified straight away, which is reasonable enough.

An increasing number of insurers are giving not only cover for money, but also cover for the simple case of a credit card under the same extension. Most credit card companies say that, provided they are notified straight away, they will bear such losses themselves.

Assuming that no problems arise over the issue of a fresh cheque book, driving licence, and the like that still leaves the problem that a bunch of keys has been taken—and, presumably, there is enough evidence in the handbag to identify where you live.

If you return home after this type of loss, be very wary about telephone calls saying that your handbag has been found. The caller may say it is the police, or the store in which the bag was stolen. He or she may say that the bag has been handed in and, if you could come round straight away, you can collect it.

Don't rush out of the house in response to such a call. Look up the telephone number in the directory of the police station or shop purporting to have found the bag and telephone to see whether you really were talking to them. It is quite likely that the original call was made by the thief or an accomplice, who simply wanted to get you out of the house for a while, so as to be able to walk through the door with the key from your handbag.

You cannot feel secure if your keys are in somebody else's possession. The locks must be changed without delay. Sometimes, this does not involve complex new locks, but just new cylinders and keys.

A very few insurers operate a form of key registration service. There is a tag on the key ring offering a reward if it is handed in at a police station. Otherwise, the insurers will pay for the cost of changing the locks—up to a certain limit. Whether it is really worth while to insure for this eventuality (and other comparatively minor losses) is debatable.

PS: In case men feel they have been left out, for handbags read wallet and for evening dress read dinner jacket!

Normally, however, the wary about insuring money than most other things. As a result, seldom is there cover for "all risks" cover for money (in addition to the basic cover against theft, etc. if the money is in the house). The limit of cover is likely to be £100 or £200, and this protection may very well be available to members of the family living in the house.

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John Drummond

Pensions

## Preparing the way for workplace schemes

There are several courses open to an employer who decides to participate in full from 1976 in Mrs Castle's new state pension scheme.

Running a full scale pension scheme and ignoring the state benefits will be an expensive business. Cutting back to allow for them will be an administrative nightmare unless the methods adopted are so rough and ready as to be almost arbitrary—producing, in all probability, serious anomalies between different members; a cut back by any method will result in employee relations problems.

Filling in deficiencies in the state scheme is the course which may avoid financial and administrative trouble without wasting employees in a firm which has no existing pension provision; but this is really an admission of defeat for it leaves the main areas of provision in pension—entirely to the state.

The level of benefit under the state scheme may look pretty good to anyone with no pension at all from his firm, but if he looks around at the sort of benefit provided by the general run of occupational schemes he will be less impressed. Both from a national point of view and for the individual employee, it will be a very unhappy out-turn if the scope of private provision is restricted in this way.

Suppose an employer decides that the financial uncertainties are too great, and full participation in the state scheme is his only course. He will have to carry his employees with him in his decision, because times employers cannot generally take major decisions without consulting their work force, and, in addition, the Social Security Pensions Act requires (although appearing without penalty for non-compliance) that an employer must explain to his employees what he is going to do and what are the implications for the employees.

If he already has a pension scheme, convincing employees may not be particularly difficult. The level of benefits is to be cut back. Where there is no pension scheme, the employees may be more readily persuaded, especially if the employer offers to provide some sort of additional benefit himself.

There is a problem then, however, in the restrictions on increases in pay and other benefits for employees. The present pay limits include death benefits, which may be particularly important in a scheme to be cut back. Where there is no pension scheme, the employees may be more readily persuaded, especially if the employer offers to provide some sort of additional benefit himself.

On the other hand, what happens after next July is most important; if the next stage in the government's new scheme covers a 12-month period again it will expire within a year of the start of the new state scheme.

What is perhaps more important, unless some firm decisions are made now, the advance of next July is likely to be impossible to start any firm planning for new benefits to become effective in late 1976 or 1977.

The root of the problem in all this is one of timing. Most pension schemes will have to be reviewed before April 1976, whether they are to be contracted out or not, and the amount of work likely to be involved will put a serious strain on pension consultants, actuaries, life assurance companies and others.

It generally takes six months to a year, at the best of times, to get a new scheme off the ground; over the next two years or so, this period is likely to be lengthened.

There are, however, one or two areas which could give grave concern from a social point of view, and where some relaxation ought to be allowed even during the current phase. The most serious relates to benefits on death.

In general, deferment of a scheme providing benefits on retirement does not cause hardship; if necessary, additional credit may be given in service before the scheme starts—indeed, this is often done. Benefits on death, however, are quite different. If an employee dies before the scheme starts, his dependants cannot derive any benefit from the later inauguration of the scheme.

What is more, it is the employees and dependants of employees who are so seriously affected. Private provision would not only meet an immediate need, but would also result in some immediate supplementary benefits.

Another area of immediate need—and the exception to my statement that no one need start a pension scheme until after next July—is the need for a new scheme to be started. It will be years before people who have retired in the last few years out of their own volition are able to meet their needs of social need in the area of their retirement about contracting out.

Eric Brunel

Low

## Snags with leases when it comes to moving

An Englishman's home may be his castle but this does not mean he can always sell it. What is its asset value if he holds only a lease? Salability depends on the clause in the lease dealing with assignment.

Leases granted for more than three years are usually worded so as to permit an assignment with the landlord's consent. If so the landlord cannot unreasonably withhold his consent and must allow the assignee to take over the lease. A tenant who is respectable and responsible.

A lease for less than three years will usually be assigned by sub-letting, which means that the tenant may not transfer occupancy to anyone else or sublet in any circumstances whatever. In this case the tenant has virtually nothing to sell and, if he decides to move, can only offer to hand back his home to his landlord.

This is invariably likely to be the position in the case of a lease on a monthly or quarterly basis.

An unexpected obstacle to selling one's flat may be the provisions of the Rent Act. While the lease itself may permit an assignment and so in law be freely transferable, the Rent Act makes it illegal for the tenant to demand a cash sum for it. Indeed the Rent Act prohibits his getting even a benefit in kind from the incoming tenant. Usually the only compensation an outgoing tenant can claim is a portion of what he has actually paid for improvements and then only at a low valuation.

Admittedly the lease itself may be a loop-hole in the law whereby the outgoing tenant can receive a profit payment from the incoming tenant but this depends on the landlord allowing a fresh lease to be granted.

In the case of a residential lease, the Rent Acts confer on the tenant the very valuable statutory right to stay on although his term has ended. But this is only a personal right of occupation and is not transferable.

This limitation can be a grave disadvantage. If he changes his job and wishes to exchange his flat for one elsewhere he cannot do so. Were he to arrange an exchange without his landlord's consent the landlord could claim possession from the new occupant.

A statutory tenant cannot even retire to live in the country and leave his son or daughter to inherit. Should there be a dispute, a County Court judge can decide who is to have it; whoever is chosen is no concern of the landlord. Recently the Court of Appeal decided that even a common law wife

grown up children or other relatives. Take the case of a couple sharing a flat with their married daughter, whose husband decides to emigrate. The latter is not entitled to transfer his tenancy to his parents-in-law.

Ironically the only way a protected tenant may transfer his home is by undergoing the inconvenience of death. In this case any member of his family who has been living with him for six months prior to his death can inherit it.

Usually it is a blood relation who inherits or an in-law, but it is for the family to decide among themselves which of their number is to take up the tenancy. Should there be a dispute, a County Court judge can decide who is to have it; whoever is chosen is no concern of the landlord. Recently the Court of Appeal decided that even a common law wife

these days is entitled to inherit it.

All this is not to say that a protected tenant can never turn his asset into hard cash. There is nothing in the Rent Act which makes it unlawful for a landlord to offer him a sum of money in return for giving up his tenancy and, in fact, this is frequently done. But his agreement to leave is not enforceable should the tenant change his mind and refuse to go.

In those circumstances it may be difficult for the landlord to get his money back. What is usually arranged is for the sum offered to be placed in a bank account in the joint names of their respective solicitors. When he releases the money only when he has moved out.

Ronald Irving

## Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Medium and Income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index 1,666.8; rise from January 1, 1975: 65.9%.

Average change offered to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: 56.9%; over three years: 20.9%.

MEDIUM	A	B	Lloyds Bank Second	91.8	-22.2
Northolme Union	129.7	-13.7	Lloyds Life Accum	89.9	-30.7
Friends Provident	123.9	-27.1	Barclaycard	88.1	-28.5
Schroder General	123.9	-27.1	S & P Ebor General	88.0	-25.0
Hill Samuel Cap	120.1	-10.2	Capital Priority	86.0	-20.4
Hill Samuel British	114.0	-12.0	Unicorn '500	86.1	-20.4
Guardian	108.3	-21.0	Prudential	85.8	-23.8
Tyndall Cammoe	106.5	-29.8	Discretionary F	84.7	-14.0
Hill Samuel Sec	106.1	-5.4	Unicorn Capital	84.3	-26.2
Lloyds Bank First	104.3	-23.0	Crescent Reserves	82.6	-27.8
Colclough	101.9	-	Pelican	82.5	-13.4
Equity & Law	99.9	-12.7	Prudential Union	82.1	-15.5
WPI Life Accum F	97.2	-23.4	British Life	82.0	-9.2
TSB General	94.5	-19.0	Unicorn Trustee	80.6	-30.6
M & G Midland	92.9	-21.0	Unicorn General	80.0	-7.5
Equitas	92.9	-21.0	Mutual Blue Chip	79.5	-15.3
Framlington Cap F	92.7	-16.5	Allied Capital	78.1	-19.1
British Life Bal	92.4	-10.7	Stronghold Priority	77.9	-28.1
M & G Trustee	92.4	-17.2	G & A	77.4	-22.2

Mutual Security Plus	77.1	-17.6	Minster	47.0	-41.8
Hambro Fund	76.8	-23.6	Emblem Fund F	47.0	-43.1
Shenley	76.7	-23.6	Sobag Capital	46.8	-43.1
Neistar	74.4	-18.0	Bishopsgate Pre F	45.8	-33.8
Abber General	73.9	-25.3	Lawson Scottish	45.7	-
Pearl Unit Trust	73.9	-25.3	L & C Unit Trust	45.2	-
Rowan Securities	73.2	-	National Consolid	43.3	-
Target Thrift	73.1	-16.3	Abacus Clants	42.3	-34.3
Stewart British	71.9	-20.3	National Inc Second	42.2	-33.4
Ulster Bank Growth	71.5	-20.3	Carumore British	39.2	-42.2
Intel	70.3	-8.0	Oceanic Growth	38.5	-40.2
Allied Gro & Inc	69.6	-21.7	Glen Fund	37.8	-32.9
Carlisle F	69.4	-19.4	Family Fund	35.7	-13.9
BIF Second	69.0	-15.6	Arie	35.5	-36.7
Quadrant F	68.9	-	Key Private	33.2	-32.3
Legal & General	67.9	-18.0	Slater Brit General	33.1	-42.3
Target Professional	67.5	-30.2	Nat Group Prov	32.6	-40.4
National West Gro	67.0	-5.5	Jacot Sec Leads	30.7	-
Widder Growth F	66.8	-	Oceanic General	30.5	-
Greenwich	66.8	-31.4	Greenwich Commercial	30.2	-33.2
Electrical & Ind	65.2	-17.6	Slater Brit Cap Growth	29.7	-32.2
National Dom	64.7	-37.7	Archway Capital F	27.3	-39.2
Abber General	60.3	-20.3	Greenwich Hambrook	26.7	-38.7
Nat Scot Dom	83.6	-23.1	Portfolio Gwth	14.0	-
Tyndall Capital	63.3	-29.6	Comsomolnith Inc	9.7	-
Flairs House M	62.9	-	Pradality Inc, Grow	4.6	-
			INCA		







## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Loss and no payout by plastics firm

The poor first half predicted by Mr Richard Dent, chairman of Bibby & Bacon, has duly materialized. This Lancashire-based paper and polythene manufacturer reports a pre-tax loss of £436,000, against a profit of £260,000 for the first six months to September 30, on sales down from £9.58m to £8.67m. There is no interim dividend (1.34p last time), but the board hopes that trading will improve enough to consider a final.

The board says trading remained difficult well into the second half of 1975, and it has taken time to adjust to these new conditions.

## Tranwood hopes for upturn

Tranwood Group, the result of the merger earlier this year of Tranwood Ltd and Benson's Hosiery, reports taxable profits down from £459,000 to £137,000 for the six months to July 31. At the same time the acquisition of Plastic Disposals, a private company, for £85,000 in shares is announced and the figures are adjusted to take this into account. The dividend is 0.5p, there being no comparison.

## Manson borrows £1m as Smith gets 2p

The 20 per cent stake in Manson Finance Trust held by F. L. Smith, an unquoted company, has been increased by Smith's subscribing for a further £20,000 new shares at 30p each. This gives it a 29.53 per cent holding in Manson, a London-based finance group.

## Gen Engineering (Radcliffe)

Sales of Gen Engineering (Radcliffe) in the half year to September 30 were £4.4m (£2.1m), and profits jumped to £349,000 (£250,000) before tax. The interim dividend is doubled to 0.6p, but is not to be construed as any indication of total dividend for year. Profit for second half "should be at least similar".

## Issues &amp; Loans

## Banque de Paris \$25m floating notes

The Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas has completed arrangements for issuing \$25m (£14.4m) floating rate notes due 1980. The notes carry interest 1 per cent above the London Interbank Offered Rate of four reference banks, with a minimum annual rate of 7 1/2 per cent. The issue is Credit Suisse White Wolf, S.G. Warburg and the Bank of Tokyo (Holland).

## ASAHI CREDIT EURO COUPON

The coupon on Asahi Chemical Industry's \$30m (£14.9m) 15-year convertible Eurobond has been cut from 6 1/2 per cent to 6 per cent and the price fixed at par. The bond carries a conversion premium of 7 1/2 per cent with a redemption option at 112 per cent after five years.

## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	11%
First London Secs	11%
C. Hoare & Co	11%
Lloyds Bank	11%
Midland Bank	11%
Nat Westminster	11%
Rosminster Acc's	11%
Shenley Trust	12%
20th Century Bank	12%
Williams & Glyn's	11%

7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 7% over 225,000, 7 1/2% over 225,000, 8% over 225,000.

## M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE &amp; CO LIMITED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yld	P/E
55	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	37	+2	3.0	11.1	7.1
99	94	Deborah Services	99	-	7.5	7.6	5.2
134	90	Henry Sykes	134	-	4.9	3.7	8.9
61	18	Twinkl Ord	27	+1	0.9	3.4	6.6
66	45	Twinkl 12% ULS	54	-	12.0	22.2	-
62	48	Unitlock Holdings	62	-	4.5	7.3	11%

## Commodities

COPPER was slightly firmer, cash wire

Afternoon—Cash wire, three months, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, 2030-31, 2031-32, 2032-33, 2033-34, 2034-35, 2035-36, 2036-37, 2037-38, 2038-39, 2039-40, 2040-41, 2041-42, 2042-43, 2043-44, 2044-45, 2045-46, 2046-47, 2047-48, 2048-49, 2049-50, 2050-51, 2051-52, 2052-53, 2053-54, 2054-55, 2055-56, 2056-57, 2057-58, 2058-59, 2059-60, 2060-61, 2061-62, 2062-63, 2063-64, 2064-65, 2065-66, 2066-67, 2067-68, 2068-69, 2069-70, 2070-71, 2071-72, 2072-73, 2073-74, 2074-75, 2075-76, 2076-77, 2077-78, 2078-79, 2079-80, 2080-81, 2081-82, 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